CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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DKS, THE NEW GUARD OF K'TAKA

DKS' elevation as CM is more than a routine change of guard, but a reward for years of loyalty, crisis management and electoral firefighting; GP took oath as DyCM and 12 others as ministers.

BENGALURU

Veteran Congress leader DK Shivakumar on Wednesday sworn in as the Chief Minister of Karnataka, with G Parameshwara as his deputy and 13 others as cabinet ministers, in a ceremony at Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru.

The 64-year-old Vokkaliga strongman was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at 4.05 pm.

Shivakumar, who has represented the Kanakapura assembly constituency for eight consecutive terms now, was unanimously elected as the leader of the Congress legislature party in Karnataka at a meeting of the CLP and senior leaders held on May 30.

His cabinet of 13 ministers, including his predecessor Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra Siddaramaiah, KH Muniyappa, KJ George, Priyank Kharge, MB Patil, Satish Jarkiholi, Krishna Byre Gowda, Ramalinga Reddy, UT Khader, Eshwar Khandre, Byrathi Suresh and Dr Sharan Prakash Patil also took oath on the occasion. G Parameshwara, who served as the state's home minister, took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister.

Before the oath taking, all five stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' were recited followed by the national anthem and Karnataka 'naada geete' (state song).

Shivakumar greeted former chief minister Siddaramaiah, who was also present at the ceremony, before the swearing-in. AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhwinder Singh Sukku, Telangana CM Revanth Reddy, and Kerala CM VD Satheesan were present at the ceremony. Shivakumar felicitated them with bouquets before the oath-taking.

Prior to taking oath as the CM, DK Shivakumar called on JD(S) supremo DH Deve Gowda and veteran BJP leader BS Yediyurappa at their respective residences in Bengaluru and south their blessings.

BK Hariprasad appointed KPCC chief

Senior Congress leader BK Hariprasad on Wednesday appointed as the new president of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), marking a key organisational change alongside the transition in the state government.

KARNATAKA CABINET

- **Chief Minister** DK Shivakumar
- **Deputy Chief Minister** G Parameshwara

Ministers

- Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah
- KH Muniyappa
- KJ George
- Priyank Kharge
- MB Patil
- Satish Jarkiholi
- Krishna Byre Gowda
- Ramalinga Reddy
- UT Khader
- Eshwar Khandre
- Byrathi Suresh
- Dr Sharan Prakash Patil

Prior to taking oath as the CM, DK Shivakumar met JD(S) supremo DH Deve Gowda, veteran BJP leader BS Yediyurappa and former CM Siddaramaiah at their residences in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Tushar Giri Nath appointed ACS to CM

Bengaluru: The state government on Wednesday issued a notification effecting key transfers and postings of senior IAS officers, including appointments to the offices of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister. According to the order issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR), Tushar Giri Nath, Additional Chief Secretary to the Urban Development Department, has been transferred and posted as Additional Chief Secretary to the CM with immediate effect. He replaces Anjum Parwez, who has been transferred. Tushar Giri Nath will also continue to hold concurrent charge of the Urban Development Department until further orders.

Atheeq LK is fin adviser to CM

Bengaluru: The government has appointed retired IAS officer Atheeq LK as the Financial Adviser to the CM with immediate effect, as per an official notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) on June 3. The appointment was made through a government order issued from the Vidhana Soudha and approved in the name of the Governor. Atheeq, a senior bureaucrat who retired from service after a distinguished administrative career, will hold the post until further orders. As Financial Adviser to the CM, he will be entitled to salary, allowances and other service benefits equivalent to those of the Chief Secretary to the government.

Parameshwara | KH Muniyappa | KJ George | MB Patil | Ramalinga Reddy | Satish Jarkiholi | Krishna Byre Gowda | Priyank Kharge | UT Khader | Eshwar Khandre | Dr Yathindra | Byrathi Suresh | Dr Sharan P Patil

Deadly Delhi blaze kills 21

NEW DELHI

At least 21 people, including 17 foreign nationals, were killed and about 37 others rescued after a fire broke out at a hotel in Delhi's Malviya Nagar on Wednesday morning. Most of the victims were from Liberia, Nigeria, Mozambique, and Bangladesh.

Over 40 people were rescued and rushed to hospital where 18 were declared brought dead, officials said. The fire broke out around 8.50 am in the restaurant of the Flourish Stay hotel, which was reportedly located in the basement of the five-storey building. The fire later spread to another hotel, Micasa Inn, next to it.

An official said that two water engines, two water bowsers, a quick-response vehicle and other firefighting units were sent after they received the distress call from the predominantly residential area, which is densely populated and is popular with students and young professionals. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

During the rescue operation, fire personnel entered the smoke-filled basement and managed to evacuate three people trapped inside.

SDM and DDMA South District official Jitendra Kumar said the DDMA cell was activated immediately after information about the incident was received on Wednesday morning, with all Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) directed to rush to the spot.

The hotel, owned by Lavkesh Bajaj, was located in the narrow lanes of Hauz Rani, and comprised about 25 rooms. It reportedly had also accommodated over 40 guests, including foreigners who were in the national capital for medical treatment.

Police filed culpable homicide FIR in this connection.

PM announces ex-gratia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of each of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for those injured.

Cong announces 4 candidates for Council polls

BENGALURU

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Wednesday announced four candidates for the biennial elections to the Karnataka Legislative Council from the MLAs' constituency.

As per a release issued by AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge approved the candidature of four leaders to contest the upcoming Council elections. The candidates are BK Hariprasad, a senior Congress leader and former Rajya Sabha member; Tippannappa Kamaknoor; PV Mohan and Shivanna Mallvalli.

The elections are being held to fill seats in the Legislative Council that will be elected by members of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. The announcement puts an end to speculation over the party's nominees and signals the beginning of preparations for the contest.

The release stated that the decision was approved by the Congress Parliamentary Board and was issued for public information and publication. With the candidate list now finalised, the party is expected to begin consultations with legislators to ensure support for its nominees.

Big blow to Mamata: 58 rebel TMC MLAs back Ritabrata as LoP

KOLKATA

The rebellion within the TMC took a decisive turn on Wednesday as 58 dissident MLAs backed legislator Ritabrata Banerjee as the leader of the legislature party and conveyed their decision to the Speaker Rathindra Bose.

In response, the Mamata Banerjee camp dissolved all organisational committees of the TMC in West Bengal amid a deepening power struggle.

Political observers viewed the move as an attempt by the leadership to regain control of the organisation and pave the way for restructuring the party apparatus amid the ongoing crisis.

The twin developments marked the most serious internal challenge faced by the TMC since its formation, raising questions over who controls the party's legislative wing, its organisational machinery, and casting doubt on the party's future after its crushing defeat in the assembly elections.

TMC TURMOIL

- **LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE:** The rebel faction declared Ritabrata Banerjee as the LoP and Akhrujjaman as Chief Whip. Javed Khan, Sandipan Saha, and Shiuli Saha were named deputy leaders.
- **MAMATA'S ROLE:** The dissidents urged TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee to serve as chief adviser to their newly-constituted legislative group, while specifically rejecting the authority of party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee over state assembly affairs.
- **ANTI-DEFECTION PROTECTION:** With 58 of the 80 TMC MLAs backing the breakaway faction, the group easily clears the two-thirds majority threshold required to avoid disqualification under the anti-defection law.
- **PARTY BACKLASH:** Following the mass defection of its legislators, the official TMC leadership completely dissolved all of its organizational committees and frontal wings across the state to regain control.

Mamata's aide resigns as Kolkata Mayor

In another big blow to TMC and Mamata Banerjee, TMC MLA Firhad Hakim, one of her closest aides has resigned from his post of mayor of Kolkata amid growing turmoil within the party. The move comes nearly a month after the TMC's defeat in the West Bengal Assembly elections, with reports of internal tensions and factional rifts continuing to fuel speculation about unrest within the party ranks.

Indian killed in Iranian attack on Kuwait airport

ABU DHABI: An Indian national was killed in an Iranian attack on Kuwait International Airport, the Indian Embassy in Kuwait confirmed on Wednesday. The attack came as Gulf hostilities escalated again, with Iran launching missile and drone strikes on targets in Kuwait and Bahrain, while the United States carried out military operations near the Strait of Hormuz. According to Kuwait's Health Ministry, at least 63 people were injured in the attack, including airport workers and passengers. Kuwaiti authorities said an Iranian drone and missile strike damaged airport facilities and diplomatic missions, killing one person and injuring several others. Following the attack, flights at Kuwait International Airport were temporarily suspended.

India condemns attack

India condemned the attack on Kuwait International Airport. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said New Delhi has consistently maintained that civilians and civilian infrastructure must not be targeted during conflicts and called on all sides to halt such attacks.

US proposes 12.5% tariff on India, 59 others over forced labour rules

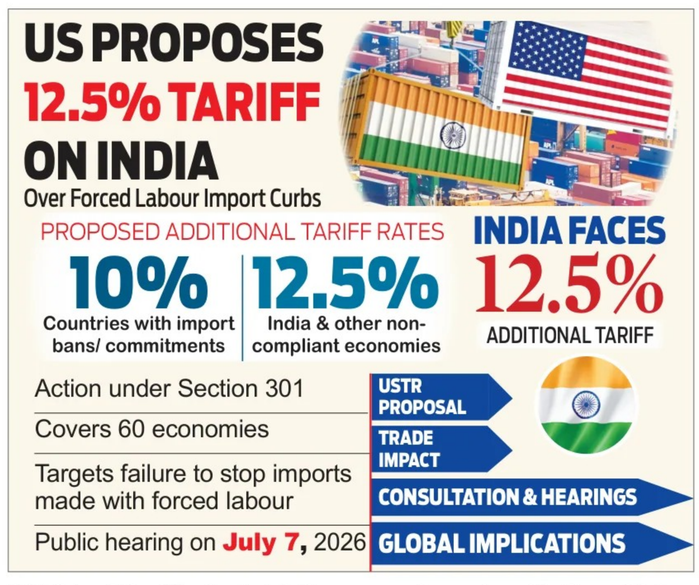
WASHINGTON

The United States Trade Representative (USTR), under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, has proposed to impose an additional 12.5% tariff on India and 59 other economies over allegations of using forced labour to produce imported goods.

In a statement, USTR claimed that 60 economies have failed to enforce rules against imported goods made via forced labour.

"Under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 that the acts, policies, and practices of 60 economies related to the failure to impose and effectively enforce a prohibition on the importation of goods produced with forced labor is unreasonable and burdens or restricts U.S. commerce, and are thus actionable under Section 301(b) of the Trade Act," the statement read.

Ambassador Jamieson Greer said the failure of "our most important trading partners to address the importation of goods made with forced labor is unacceptable" "This creates a dynamic where American workers are forced to compete globally on an unlevel playing field," Greer added.



REFLECTIONS OF A LIFE JOURNEY

Dalai Lama honoured with Grammy

DHARAMSHALA

Tibetan spiritual leader the 14th Dalai Lama was formally presented the Grammy Award for his audiobook "Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama" at his residence in McLeodganj on Wednesday morning.

The award was presented by renowned sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan, who was accompanied by his sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, along with music producer Kabir Sehgal, who was a collaborator on the Grammy-winning project.

The audiobook won in the Best Audio Book, Narration & Storytelling Recording category at this year's Grammy Awards in February. The project blends the Dalai Lama's reflections on compassion, peace, mindfulness and the oneness of humanity with Indian classical music, creating an immersive listening experience rooted in contemplation and universal values.

Unlike a conventional music album, "Meditations" combines spoken teachings by the Dalai Lama with carefully composed musical arrangements. The work draws upon decades of his teachings on compassion, environmental responsibility and shared humanity — principles that have shaped his public life for more than seven decades.

Several compositions in the album address pressing global concerns. In "Water", the Dalai Lama reflects on the environmental changes he has observed since his childhood in Tibet and underscores the importance of protecting the planet's natural resources.

In "Peace", he speaks about compassion as a fundamental human value, describing it as vital not only for personal growth but also for the well-being and future of society.

The Dalai Lama was announced as the winner of the Grammy earlier this year.

QUICK READ

ORR flooded again as rain triggers massive traffic snarls

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A spell of heavy evening rain brought Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road (ORR) corridor to a near standstill, exposing persistent issues of waterlogging and traffic congestion. The Panathur stretch witnessed severe flooding despite recent road-widening works, with residents blaming the absence of drainage improvements. Water accumulated at the railway underpass and Panathur S-Cross, disrupting movement for hours. The impact extended across Bellandur, Doddanakundi and Devarabeesanahalli, where long queues of vehicles crawled through flooded roads. Commuters reported lengthy delays, with many taking more than two hours to cover short distances during peak evening traffic.

Youth arrested for allegedly attacking policemen

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Police have arrested a 22-year-old youth for allegedly assaulting policemen during celebrations following Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL title win. The accused, identified as Sudesh from KR Pura, was reportedly under the influence of alcohol when the incident occurred near Banasawadi late Sunday night. According to police, Sudesh and two others were shouting slogans and causing a disturbance when officers intervened. An argument allegedly escalated into an assault, with a constable being pushed to the ground. The trio fled, abandoning their motorcycle. Investigators later tracked down and arrested Sudesh using the vehicle's registration details.

Brajesh Kumar Singh appointed MD and CEO of Canara Bank

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Brajesh Kumar Singh has assumed charge as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Canara Bank, the public sector lender announced on Tuesday. His tenure will continue until April 30, 2029, or until further orders, according to an official statement from the bank. Singh brings nearly three decades of experience in the banking sector, with expertise in retail banking, corporate credit and human resources management. Prior to this appointment, he served as Executive Director of Indian Bank, where he handled key operational and strategic responsibilities.

Adani wins bid for B-luru Silk Board–Hebbal tunnel project

Proposal for 17-km tunnel road sent to Karnataka government for approval

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The proposal to award the contract for the construction of a 17-km tunnel road connecting Silk Board and Hebbal in Bengaluru to Adani Enterprises has been submitted to the state government, marking a major step forward in one of the city's most ambitious infrastructure projects.

Bangalore Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), the implementing agency for the project, has forwarded the tender evaluation report to the state government, recommending Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) as the lowest bidder for the underground corridor project.

Officials confirmed that the file, containing detailed bid evaluations and technical assessments, was sent last week after the completion of the tendering process. The project involves the construction of a 16.75 km twin-tube tunnel designed to ease traffic congestion between Silk Board Junction and Hebbal, two of Bengaluru's busiest traffic choke points.

The estimated cost of the project, as assessed by the state government, stands at Rs 17,698 crore. However, Adani Enterprises quoted Rs 22,267 crore in its bid, exceeding the estimate by nearly Rs 4,600 crore. Despite the higher-than-estimated cost, the company emerged as the lowest bidder among competing firms in the tender process.

Sources said preliminary scientific studies are already underway, with the company conducting soil testing, geological surveys, and structural feasibility assessments across the proposed alignment. These preparatory works are aimed at ensuring technical readiness before final approval is granted.

The tunnel road project, a key infrastructure initiative closely associated with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's urban mobility vision, will now be placed before the state cabinet for final approval. A decision is expected after detailed deliberations on cost structure, financing model and execution timeline.

The project is proposed to be implemented under the Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) model. If approved, Adani Enterprises will construct and maintain the tunnel for a concession period of 30 years.

Under the proposed arrangement, the Karnataka government is expected to bear 40 per cent of the total project cost, with the remaining investment to be mobilised by the private concessionaire.

Once completed, the tunnel is expected to significantly reduce travel time across Bengaluru's congested central corridor, offering a high-speed underground alternative to the city's surface traffic network.

Residents struggle as garbage collection system falters

Waste piled up across several neighbourhoods as complaints go unanswered.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The stench of rotting garbage, swarms of insects around overflowing bins, and waste accumulating inside residential compounds have become an increasingly common sight in Bengaluru as door-to-door garbage collection services remain irregular in several parts of the city.

Residents, particularly in south and east Bengaluru, said garbage collection has become highly inconsistent, with some areas receiving service once in two days, while others report collections happening only once a week. In several localities, garbage blackspots have remained uncleared for nearly four to five days, leading to unhygienic conditions and growing public anger.

Many residents said they have repeatedly filed complaints through the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) portal and Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) helplines, but no effective response has followed. Citizens questioned the justification for paying user fees when basic waste collection services are not being delivered regularly.

A resident from Marathahalli said garbage collection vehicles had not visited the area for nearly four to five days. According to the resident, when a vehicle finally arrived, it prioritised collecting waste from paying guest accommodations while ignoring individual households. The resident added that by the time waste was finally handed over, wet garbage had already begun attracting insects and emitting foul odours.

In HBR Layout, residents said waste dumped in open spaces is being scattered by stray dogs, worsening sanitation conditions and creating health concerns. Another resident, Chaya, said repeated complaints through official apps and WhatsApp numbers had resulted in no resolution, with residents being redirected between departments without clarity.

Experts have also pointed to broader systemic concerns. Prof. CM Lakshmana, Head of the Population Research Centre at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), noted that improvements in health and social indicators often depend on sustained structural reforms, though his comments were made in a broader context of urban governance challenges.

Meanwhile, officials from BSWML said they were not immediately aware of the specific complaints but would verify the issue with concerned assistant general managers. However, internal sources suggested that the disruption could be linked to operational resistance from existing contractors, as new garbage-collection packages are awaiting government approval.

As civic frustration grows, residents say the city's waste management system urgently needs accountability, consistency, and stronger enforcement to prevent further deterioration of public hygiene.

Techie who killed parents mentally sound, say cops; row over SIM port trigger

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 33-year-old software engineer arrested for allegedly stabbing his parents to death in Bengaluru earlier this year has been declared mentally fit after medical evaluation at NIMHANS, police said, adding that the case was driven by personal and financial disputes rather than any psychiatric illness.

Rohan Chandra, accused of killing his parents—retired Navy captain Naveen Chandra Bhat and Shyamala Bhat—at their villa in Vignan Nagar near HAL Township in February, was initially suspected to be suffering from schizophrenia based on preliminary statements from neighbours and family members. However, doctors at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) concluded after a week of observation that he showed no signs of schizophrenia, anxiety disorder or mental instability, according to Whitefield Deputy Commissioner of Police Saidulu Adavath.

Police said the medical certification allowed investigators to proceed with detailed interrogation and continue the probe without considering insanity as a defence angle. Following the assessment, Rohan was subjected to extensive questioning as part of the investigation. According to the chargesheet, the motive behind the crime stemmed primarily from two disputes within the family. Investigators said Rohan was upset after his parents refused to give him Rs 10 lakh, which he intended to invest in a startup focused on artificial intelligence tools. Despite completing a master's degree in AI in the United States, his parents allegedly insisted that he first secure employment instead of funding a venture.

BJP urges Governor to revoke K'taka govt's decision on Aland riot case withdrawal

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A state BJP delegation met Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot and submitted a memorandum seeking cancellation of the Karnataka government's decision to withdraw criminal cases related to alleged communal violence and attacks on police personnel during the Aland incident in Kalaburagi district.

The delegation claimed that the state government's move to withdraw cases linked to the violence that erupted over worship activities at the Raghav Chaitanya Shivalinga was politically motivated and amounted to appeasement. They urged the Governor to intervene and overturn what they described as an "unconstitutional and anti-people" decision.

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, who led the delegation, alleged that the Congress government had taken the step to withdraw cases involving serious offences, including attacks on a place of worship, assault on police officers and damage to public property, for vote-bank considerations. He said the decision was "shocking and condemnable" and undermined law and order.

According to the BJP leaders, the incidents in Aland involved large-scale violence during a sensitive communal situation centred around the Raghav Chaitanya temple. They alleged that individuals involved in the unrest attacked people engaged in cleaning the Shivalinga, as well as devotees who had gathered for worship. They further claimed that police personnel who arrived at the scene were also attacked, leaving several injured, and that official vehicles and public property were damaged during the clashes.

The delegation also argued that the government's decision was particularly concerning as the matter remains pending before the courts. They insisted that withdrawing such cases at this stage would weaken the judicial process and send a wrong message regarding accountability in serious criminal matters.

Narayanaswamy alleged that while strict action is taken against protestors from Dalit and Kannada organisations, those involved in violent attacks during communal incidents were being spared. He cited previous arrests of pro-Kannada activists to argue what he termed as selective enforcement of law.

The BJP leaders said they have requested the Governor to direct the state government to reconsider and revoke its cabinet decision. They maintained that the move was necessary to uphold constitutional principles and ensure justice in cases involving communal violence and attacks on law enforcement personnel.

K.R. Circle underpass drainage repair completed after 3-year delay

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

After nearly three years of delays following a fatal incident, the long-pending drainage works at the K.R. Circle underpass have finally been completed, with authorities initiating a permanent solution to the chronic problem of rainwater stagnation.

The Central Urban Corporation has begun connecting a 900 mm pipeline to the underpass, designed to channel accumulated rainwater into a nearby major stormwater drain. Officials said the new system will ensure smoother water flow during heavy rains and significantly reduce recurring waterlogging issues that have plagued the stretch for years.

The K.R. Circle underpass has been notorious for flooding even after moderate rainfall, forcing repeated closures by traffic police. Vehicles moving from Vidhana Soudha towards Nrupatunga Road are frequently diverted whenever water levels rise, leading to major congestion in the busy central business district. The urgency of the project stems from a tragic incident on May 21, 2023, when a 23-year-old software professional died after his car became trapped in rainwater inside the submerged underpass. The incident triggered widespread public outrage and demands for urgent infrastructural correction.

Despite this, the underpass continued to face repeated shutdowns during rains, as civic authorities struggled to implement a permanent drainage solution. Each rainfall led to waterlogging, barricading, and traffic diversions, causing severe disruption in one of Bengaluru's most important traffic corridors.

Officials now say the newly laid pipeline will provide a long-term remedy to the issue by ensuring quick discharge of stormwater into the connected drainage network. The project is expected to reduce flood-related closures and improve vehicular movement between key government and commercial zones in the city centre.

Couple's bike hit by tipper truck; husband dies, wife critical

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A tragic road accident in Anekal town on Tuesday claimed the life of a 40-year-old man and left his wife critically injured after their motorcycle was reportedly struck by a tipper truck and dragged into a chain collision involving parked vehicles.

The deceased has been identified as Manjunath Reddy (40), a resident of Harohalli village near Huskuru in Anekal taluk.

His wife Pratibha (36) sustained severe injuries and has been admitted to a private hospital in Bommasandra, where her condition is said to be critical.

The accident occurred near Apollo Medical Shop on Mirza Road in Anekal town when the couple had come to purchase agricultural chemicals. According to preliminary accounts, the incident took place when a speeding lorry approached from behind as the couple attempted to navigate a congested stretch of road lined with parked two-wheelers.

HIGH-PROFILE ABDUCTION

Former MLC kidnapped, ₹3 cr ransom demanded near Anekal

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Former MLC Dayananda Reddy was allegedly kidnapped at gunpoint and a ransom demand of Rs 3 crore was made late Monday night near Anekal in Bengaluru city district, police said. The incident took place after he left his Gold Coin Club at Heelage in Anekal taluk.

According to the complaint, the former legislator was intercepted by two men on a motorcycle who allegedly approached his vehicle claiming a gift box had been delivered for him. As he opened the door, the suspects allegedly forced their way inside, threatened him with a firearm, and instructed the driver to proceed in a direction of their choice.

Police said two additional suspects followed the vehicle in a red car, creating what appeared to be a coordinated abduction. The group allegedly took him towards the Attibele KHB area, where he was threatened and pressured to arrange a ransom of Rs 3 crore for his release.

Dayananda Reddy told investigators that the accused initially claimed he had been targeted in a larger "contract killing" plot and attempted to intimidate him by stating that a much larger sum had allegedly been offered for his elimination. He said he pleaded with the kidnappers, assuring them that he would arrange the money after banks opened in the morning.

The former MLC stated that the accused kept him confined in the vehicle for several hours, from around midnight until early morning. During this period, they repeatedly demanded money and discussed financial difficulties, according to his statement.

He further told police that the suspects claimed to have identified him through online sources and believed he was financially well-off due to his social and business profile. They allegedly insisted that Rs 3 crore be paid immediately, promising to release him once the money was arranged.

Reddy later filed a complaint at the Attibele police station. Acting on the information provided, police launched an investigation and arrested the accused shortly after the incident.

Officials are verifying the full sequence of events, including whether additional individuals were involved and if the gang had planned similar kidnappings targeting wealthy individuals in the region. Further investigation is underway.

BNCC reviews civic works, steps up monsoon preparedness

CH NEWS. BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) has reviewed the progress of infrastructure and development works being carried out under two grants released by the state government and outlined measures to tackle monsoon-related challenges. The review meeting was chaired by Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar and attended by engineers and contractors associated with various civic projects. During the meeting, officials assessed the status of ongoing works and issued directions to ensure timely completion. The commissioner instructed officials to undertake thorough cleaning and maintenance of drains along major arterial and sub-arterial roads to prevent waterlogging during the rainy season. He also directed engineers to prioritise the repair and closure of potholes across the corporation limits to ensure safe travel for motorists and pedestrians. To address emergencies during the monsoon, ₹25 lakh has been allocated for each constituency from the Commissioner's Discretionary Fund. Officials were asked to utilise the funds efficiently wherever urgent interventions are required.

QUICK READ

Accused sent to judicial custody in Yatheesh Gowda case

Beltangady

Three accused persons have been remanded to judicial custody in connection with the murder of Yatheesh Gowda in Aladikottige, Guruvayanakere, under Beltangady police limits. The accused — identified as Yashodhara (35) from Mithabagilu, Mohan (30) from Charvaka, and Ibrahim (54) from Padangady — were produced before the Beltangady court, which ordered judicial custody on Tuesday. Police said the victim's brother filed a complaint alleging that the trio assaulted and killed Yatheesh Gowda. The investigation into the case is ongoing as authorities examine the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Three detained after train assault at Bantwal railway station

Bantwal

Three individuals were detained by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) at Bantwal railway station after allegedly assaulting a passenger and causing a disturbance aboard the Mangaluru–Subrahmanya train. According to reports, the trio had boarded the last coach at Kodimbala railway station and began creating a commotion inside the compartment. A complaint was subsequently filed with railway police. When the train reached Bantwal station, RPF personnel intervened and took the accused into custody. The incident briefly halted the train's movement at the station for a few minutes before normal operations resumed.

Chikkamagaluru DC orders monsoon safety measures urgently

Chikkamagaluru

The Chikkamagaluru District Administration has directed all departments to take precautionary steps to prevent rain-related damage during the monsoon season. District Collector B.H. Mena instructed officials to form rapid response teams and ensure inter-departmental coordination for emergency situations. Authorities have been asked to remove weak electric poles, damaged wires, and hazardous trees with support from the forest department. Flood-prone and low-lying areas must be identified, with measures to prevent waterlogging and water intrusion into homes. Unsafe buildings, including old schools and public structures, should be restricted from use, and vulnerable residents relocated when necessary. Officials have also been asked to ensure emergency preparedness, sanitation, disease control, and regular fogging operations.

Malayalam study rule challenged in High Court

Kannada-medium students from Kasaragod have challenged mandatory Malayalam learning rules in Kerala High Court seeking exemption.

KASARAGOD

A group of Kannada-medium students from Kasaragod district has approached the Kerala High Court challenging the state government's decision to make Malayalam learning compulsory in schools, seeking exemption for Kannada-medium institutions in the border region.

The petitioners have argued that the mandatory language requirement violates the constitutional rights of linguistic minorities and disproportionately affects students studying in Kannada-medium schools in Kasaragod. They claim that forcing Malayalam as a compulsory subject undermines their educational rights and cultural identity.

The petition has been filed by seven students, including Deeksha, Tanisha, Dhanush, Harshri, Muhammad, Shivajit and Muhammad Riyaz, who have jointly sought relief from the enforcement of the rule. They have requested that the court grant interim protection until a final verdict is delivered.

The case has been admitted by a single-judge bench of the Kerala High Court headed by Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas. The court has issued urgent notices to the Kerala government and the Department of Public Education, asking them to respond to the allegations raised in the petition.

The students have contended that the policy amounts to discrimination against linguistic minorities in a region where Kannada-speaking populations form a significant section of the community. They have urged the court to ensure that education policies respect India's multilingual framework and safeguard minority language rights.

The matter is scheduled for further hearing on June 9, when the court will consider arguments related to the interim stay plea and examine whether the rule should be temporarily suspended.

The case has drawn attention in Kasaragod, a linguistically diverse district where both Kannada and Malayalam are widely spoken. Education experts note that the outcome of the case could have broader implications for language policy in border districts and minority-medium schools across the state.

Authorities from the state education department are expected to present their response during the next hearing as the legal debate over language instruction in schools continues.

senior leader says BJP sets target to win all eight constituencies in Dakshina Kannada ahead of upcoming elections.

BJP calls for wins across all eight constituencies

MANGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party has set an ambitious target of winning all eight Assembly constituencies in Dakshina Kannada district in the upcoming elections, senior party leader Radha Mohan Das Agarwal said.

Speaking at a district-level training programme held in Mangaluru under the "Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Training Campaign 2026," he said the party must strengthen its organisational structure and intensify grassroots-level efforts to achieve complete electoral success in the region.

Agarwal noted that the BJP currently holds six of the eight Assembly seats in the district, and stressed that winning the remaining constituencies, including Mangaluru and Puttur, is a key priority. He urged party workers to dedicate sustained effort to ensure victory for all candidates in the next election.

He further highlighted the ideological foundation of the BJP, stating that the party has maintained its commitment to its core principles since its inception. He said the party continues to function under the philosophy of Integral Humanism, which guides its political and organisational direction.

The leader also recalled the contributions of senior party workers and leaders, stating that their sacrifices have strengthened the organisation over time. He called on current members to remember and honour their contributions while working towards future goals.

Dakshina Kannada BJP president Sathish Kumpala presided over the programme and said the two-day training session would help further strengthen the party's organisation in the district.

Several leaders, including MPs, MLAs and party office bearers, attended the event and participated in discussions focused on organisational strategy, ideological training and election preparedness.

Warns action over streetlight negligence: MLA S.N. Channabasappa

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

Shivamogga MLA warns action against officials and contractors over poor streetlight maintenance, citing safety concerns and directing immediate repairs across city limits.

Shivamogga City MLA S.N. Channabasappa has warned of strict action against officials and contractors if negligence continues in the maintenance of streetlights within the city corporation limits.

Chairing an urgent review meeting at his official office "Karthavya Bhavana," the MLA held discussions with officials from Mangaluru Electricity Supply Company Limited and the municipal electricity wing regarding the functioning and upkeep of streetlights across Shivamogga city.

He expressed strong dissatisfaction over repeated complaints from residents about non-functional streetlights in several localities. Channabasappa said the lack of timely repairs has created safety concerns, especially for women, elderly citizens and commuters during nighttime hours.

The MLA stated that public safety is directly affected when streetlights remain defunct, and directed officials to ensure that all lights are restored and kept operational without delay. He stressed that any negligence or delay in addressing complaints would not be tolerated.

He further instructed officials to take strict disciplinary action against contractors responsible for maintenance work who have failed to perform their duties as per contractual terms. He ordered that formal notices be issued immediately to such contractors for their failure to maintain public infrastructure.

Channabasappa emphasized that repeated lapses in streetlight maintenance reflect administrative irresponsibility and urged officials to adopt a more accountable and proactive approach. He said public grievances must be addressed on priority to ensure smooth functioning of civic services.

Officials present at the meeting, including assistant executive engineers and municipal electrical department staff, assured that corrective measures would be taken promptly to improve streetlight maintenance across all wards in the city.

The meeting concluded with a directive to establish stricter monitoring mechanisms to prevent further lapses and ensure uninterrupted public lighting for safety and convenience.

AAP urges protection for eligible street vendors

MANGALURU

The Aam Aadmi Party has urged authorities to ensure that eligible street vendors are not unfairly excluded while implementing regulations related to street vending in the region.

The party raised concerns over the identification and rehabilitation process of street vendors, stating that genuine and eligible beneficiaries should not be denied their rights under existing welfare and urban development frameworks. AAP leaders said that several vendors depend on daily earnings from roadside businesses for their livelihood, and any disruption could severely impact their economic stability.

The demand comes amid ongoing discussions on the regulation and organization of street vending zones in urban areas. The party emphasised that implementation of policies should be carried out transparently and in consultation with vendor associations to avoid misuse or selective exclusion.

AAP leaders also highlighted the importance of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, which aims to protect the rights of street vendors while ensuring orderly urban management. They stressed that local authorities must adhere to the provisions of the Act while preparing vending zones and issuing identification certificates.

The party urged civic bodies to conduct proper surveys and ensure that all eligible vendors are included in official records. It also called for grievance redressal mechanisms so that affected individuals can raise concerns without fear of harassment or loss of livelihood.

According to AAP representatives, street vending forms an important part of the informal economy and contributes significantly to urban commerce. They said that vendors should be viewed as partners in city development rather than obstacles to urban planning.

The party further appealed to officials to avoid any arbitrary eviction or exclusion drives and instead focus on inclusive policies that balance urban regulation with livelihood protection.

AAP concluded that safeguarding the rights of street vendors is essential for ensuring social justice and maintaining economic stability for thousands of families dependent on small-scale trade across urban centres.

Civic initiative supports frontline workers in Mudigere

MUDIGERE

The role of municipal sanitation workers in maintaining public cleanliness and ensuring a healthy environment is highly significant, said businessman Dinesh during a civic awareness programme organised in Mudigere. He was speaking at an event held at the JCI Bhavan, where steel water bottles were distributed to municipal sanitation workers as part of a social service initiative by the Junior Chamber International Mudigere chapter. Dinesh appreciated the initiative and said sanitation workers play a crucial role in maintaining hygiene in towns and cities. He stressed that continuous efforts by civic workers keep public spaces clean and directly contribute to community health and wellbeing. He also said that it is important for sanitation workers to take care of their own health while performing demanding daily duties. Initiatives like providing reusable steel water bottles help encourage better hydration habits and reduce dependency on plastic, he added.

Students lead massive anti-drug rally campaign

MANGALURU

Over 3,000 students, faculty and staff of Father Muller Charitable Institutions participated in a large anti-drug walkathon at the Kankanady campus on Wednesday, as part of the Nasha Mukt Bharat initiative aimed at promoting a drug-free society.

The event began on a cloudy morning near St Joseph Chapel, where participants dressed in white T-shirts carrying anti-drug messages gathered in large numbers. The rally created a strong visual impact as thousands of students marched together, raising slogans against substance abuse and highlighting its harmful effects on individuals, families and communities.

The walkathon was flagged off by Dharshan H V, who praised the large turnout and stressed the importance of collective action in tackling drug abuse. He also encouraged citizens to report drug-related activities and assured confidential support for those seeking help for addiction.

The procession moved through key city routes including Karavali Circle and Pumpwell Road before returning to the FMCI campus. The event included awareness vehicles and a tableau carrying messages on the dangers of substance abuse, strengthening the campaign's outreach.

Police officials, including Maruthi, addressed participants at the conclusion and emphasised that drug abuse not only destroys individual lives but also disrupts families and society. He called for early intervention and stronger community vigilance.

Entrepreneur Michael D'Souza appreciated the coordination between police and organisers and praised the institution's long-standing contribution to healthcare and social awareness over more than 140 years.

The programme was coordinated by senior faculty and administrators of FMCI, with extensive participation from student groups, NSS units and various colleges under the institution. Organisers said the event aimed to reinforce youth leadership in fighting substance abuse and promoting healthier lifestyles across the region.

Linganamakki backwater drop halts Muppane launch service

SHIVAMOGGA

The launch service on the Halke–Muppane route has been suspended after water levels in the backwaters of Linganamakki Reservoir dropped to a minimum, affecting safe navigation, according to reports. The route is a key transport link in the Sharavathi backwater region, connecting remote settlements in Sagara taluk of Shivamogga district and serving residents who depend on it for daily travel and essential services. Officials from the Ports and Inland Water Transport Department said receding water levels have exposed submerged obstacles and shallow stretches, increasing navigation risks. Lower water levels have also made docking unsafe, with the vessel reportedly touching the ground near boarding points. Authorities said services will resume once water levels rise sufficiently, likely during the monsoon season, restoring safe operating conditions.

FUEL PRICE IMPACT

Virajpet auto drivers demand fare hike, road expansion

VIRAJPET

Members of the Jai Bharat Auto Drivers and Owners Association have urged authorities to approve an increase in auto-rickshaw fares and take urgent steps to widen and repair damaged roads in the region.

Speaking at a press conference, association president N.N. Shivu said rising fuel costs, including petrol, diesel and CNG, have made fare revision unavoidable. He noted that increasing operational expenses, along with rising spare parts prices, are affecting the livelihood of auto drivers.

The association pointed out that the minimum fare currently stands at ₹40, but due to fuel price hikes, some drivers are already charging ₹50. This has led to frequent disputes between passengers and drivers, they said, calling for an official revision of fares by district authorities.

Members also raised concerns over operational restrictions placed on auto-rickshaws, including a 15-km movement limit. They argued that such restrictions, combined with limited CNG availability in the district, are causing hardship for drivers operating long-distance routes.

Another member highlighted safety concerns, stating that CNG refuelling facilities are available only in Virajpet and Kushalnagar. He warned that transporting fuel over long distances without adequate insurance coverage poses risks for drivers.

The association also demanded improvement and expansion of road infrastructure in Virajpet, citing pothole-ridden and damaged roads that are causing difficulties for daily commuters and increasing vehicle wear and tear.

Members urged the administration to address both fare revision and infrastructure issues simultaneously to ensure smooth transport operations and reduce conflict between drivers and passengers.

QUICK READ

Fake TTE arrested on Janshatabdi train

MYSURU

Railway police arrested a man posing as a TTE on the KSR Bengaluru Shivamogga Janshatabdi Express for allegedly collecting money from passengers. The accused was identified as 26-year-old M K Rakibuddin from Shivamogga district. He was caught during ticket checking and found using a fake identity card on his mobile phone. Officials confirmed he was not a railway employee and was handed over to GRP Arasikere for investigation. RPF Mysuru under Operation Amanat traced a lost mobile phone and returned it to a passenger who lost it during travel between Guntakal and Mandya after quick verification and contact process completed.

Organic farming training for farmers on June 5

CHITRADURGA

A one-day training programme on organic agriculture will be held on June 5 at the District Agricultural Training Centre in Babbur Farm, Hiriyur taluk. The event is organised as part of World Environment Day celebrations under the National Development Plan for interested farmers in the district. Progressive farmers Indudhara from Byadarahalli and Srinivas from Hiriyur will guide participants on organic farming methods, water and nutrient management, and bee farming practices. Officials will also explain sustainable and profitable integrated farming systems for better agricultural income. Only 50 farmers will be selected for the training. Interested participants must register by calling 8277931058 and attend with Aadhaar card or FID, said Assistant Director R Rajinikanth.

Public grievance meeting on electricity issues

MANDYA

A public grievance meeting on electricity-related issues under Mandya Sub-Division, Kottathi Sub-Division, and Keragodu Sub-Division has been organised under the chairmanship of the Superintending Engineer (Electricity) of Mandya Circle on June 6 at 11 am at the Mandya Division Office premises.

Mysuru Congress office becomes mini celebration arena

Celebrations peaked as Dr. Yatindra Siddaramaiah became minister; supporters rejoiced, calling it a proud moment for Mysuru

MYSURU

The Mysuru City and District Congress office transformed into a mini celebration arena on Wednesday as party leaders and workers gathered in large numbers to witness the swearing-in ceremony of D.K. Shivakumar as the new Chief Minister.

To ensure that every worker could be part of the historic moment, a giant LED television screen was specially installed at the party office, allowing supporters to watch the live telecast of the ceremony held at Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru, where Shivakumar and 13 other ministers took the oath of office.

The atmosphere turned electric the moment Shivakumar took the oath. Party workers erupted into loud cheers, waving Congress flags, raising slogans in support of their leader and bursting into spontaneous celebrations. Cries of "DK Shivakumar Zindabad" and "Congress Party Zindabad" echoed through the premises as workers danced to the beats of drums and exchanged greetings.

The celebrations reached another high when Dr. Yatindra Siddaramaiah took oath as a minister. Supporters, visibly thrilled at the inclusion of the young leader in the Cabinet, broke into jubilant dances and showered praise on the party leadership. Many workers described it as a proud moment for Mysuru and the Old Mysuru region.

In a unique display of devotion and enthusiasm, several workers performed aarthi to the LED screen as Shivakumar and Yatindra appeared on the live telecast. The symbolic gesture drew applause from those gathered and reflected

the emotional connection many party workers share with their leaders.

Boxes of sweets were quickly opened and distributed among party members, supporters and passers-by. The celebrations continued for a few hours with workers dancing, singing and sharing their happiness over the formation of the new government.

Senior Congress leaders and office-bearers joined the festivities and congratulated workers on the occasion. Among those present were K.V. Mallesh, H.V. Rajeev, Bhyrappa, Chikkanna, Pushpalata Chikkanna, Sharada Sampath, Modamani and several other party leaders and activists.

For Congress workers in Mysuru, it was a day of unrestrained joy, celebration and renewed hope as the party ushered in a new chapter under the leadership of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

MP Yaduveer seeks fast-track approval for Mysuru Railway Station upgrade

MYSURU

The MP said Mysuru's growth demands upgraded railway infrastructure and urged quick clearance for the proposed third entry gate and station redevelopment project

Mysuru–Kodagu Member of Parliament Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar has written to Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, urging immediate administrative and financial approval for the long-awaited Mysuru Railway Station upgradation and Third Entry Gate project.

He has also requested the Ministry to consider extending the proposed Chennai–Mysuru High-Speed Rail (Bullet Train) corridor as part of future railway expansion plans.

In his communication, the MP highlighted Mysuru's growing stature as one of Karnataka's leading cultural, educational, tourism and economic hubs. The city's rapidly increasing passenger traffic necessitates the strengthening and modernization of railway infrastructure to meet future demands.

Referring to the proposed third entry gate and station redevelopment project, Yaduveer stated that, in accordance with the Railway Minister's earlier directions, he had coordinated with architects and railway officials. The design and planning processes have already been completed and requested that the project receive swift administrative and financial clearance so that construction work can commence at the earliest.

At the same time, he urged the Railway Ministry to evaluate the feasibility of extending the Chennai–Mysuru High-Speed Rail corridor and to include the proposal in future railway planning and feasibility studies.

According to the MP, the project has the potential to strengthen economic integration between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu while providing a significant boost to tourism, trade and investment opportunities. It would offer a faster, environmentally sustainable mode of inter-city transportation, generate employment opportunities and support Mysuru's expanding industrial and educational ecosystem.

Highlighting Mysuru's strategic importance and growing connectivity requirements, Yaduveer appealed to the Ministry to ensure that the city is included in future high-speed rail feasibility assessments and long-term railway infrastructure development plans.

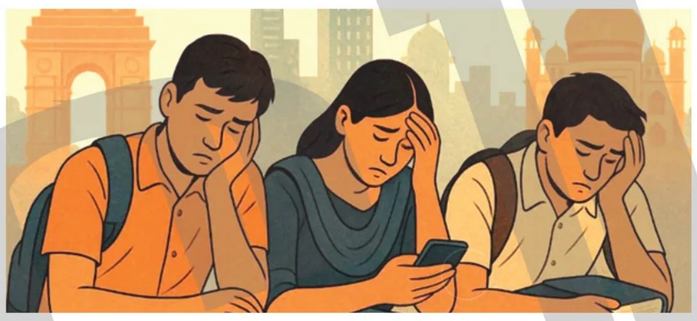
The MP expressed confidence that both projects would provide a major impetus to the economic growth of the Mysuru region, significantly improve passenger experience and contribute meaningfully to the vision of creating world-class transportation infrastructure across South India.

₹422-Cr railway transformation plan to enhance passenger convenience

The proposed project, estimated at ₹422 crore, is expected to substantially improve passenger convenience while reducing congestion on existing entry routes to the railway station. It will also strengthen integration between various modes of transportation and further reinforce Mysuru's position as one of South India's most important railway hubs.

ACADEMIC STRESS LINKED TO STUDENT MENTAL STRAIN

SHARON FAUSTINA J



The 2026 NEET paper leak controversy has sparked outrage across the country after serious allegations emerged about the compromise of one of India's most important entrance examinations. The test conducted by the National Testing Agency on May 3, 2026 was taken by millions of students hoping to secure seats in medical and dental colleges. However the examination was cancelled on May 12 after claims surfaced that a so called guess paper and parts of the actual question paper had been circulated before the test. Investigations led to multiple arrests including individuals reportedly linked to the examination process triggering protests political criticism and legal challenges.

For many aspirants the controversy was more than an administrative failure. Students who had spent months and often years preparing for the highly competitive examination suddenly faced uncertainty frustration and disappointment. Many questioned whether their hard work still mattered after reports of leaked material began circulating through messaging platforms and online groups. The cancellation of the examination forced candidates to reconsider study plans manage growing anxiety and prepare for the possibility of another test.

Speaking about the emotional impact of such incidents psychiatrist Dr. M. Kamran Chisty said students already experience significant pressure while preparing for demanding examinations like NEET. According to him news of a paper leak can intensify stress and leave students feeling that their efforts have been wasted. He added that parental expectations especially when students are pushed toward careers they do not genuinely want can further increase emotional strain. Adolescence itself is a period of major physical and psychological change making young people more vulnerable to distress during crises.

The psychiatrist also highlighted concerns about the rising number of student suicides reported in recent years. He noted that many teenagers struggle to balance academic demands personal challenges and emotional wellbeing. A recent suicide case reported in Patna after the leak allegations drew attention to the seriousness of the issue. He further pointed to survey findings showing increasing concern about mental health challenges among teenagers in Bengaluru. Sleep deprivation irregular routines and constant academic pressure can affect concentration energy levels and overall health.

Dr. Chisty suggested several measures to support students during difficult periods. He recommended including structured activity schedules within educational programmes and reducing excessive academic burdens. He stressed that healthy sleep patterns physical wellbeing and emotional care should receive greater attention. He also advocated umbrella counselling that involves students parents teachers and other important people in a student's life. Such support systems can help young people develop healthier coping methods and reduce feelings of isolation.Experts say family support remains one of the strongest protective factors during stressful situations. Students who feel understood encouraged and supported are often better equipped to handle setbacks. The controversy has renewed calls for stronger safeguards within examination systems. Many believe those responsible should face swift accountability and authorities must ensure transparent fair and secure examinations.

15,000 free saplings to be distributed on World Environment Day

MYSURU

With a vision to transform Mysuru into one of the greenest cities in India, the "Green Mysore – Lakshavriksha Abhiyan", initiated by Sri H.V. Rajeev Sneha Balaga in association with Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project, Mysore District Journalists Association and Patanjali Yoga Educational Institutions, continues to inspire thousands of citizens towards environmental conservation.

Since 2019, the movement has distributed and nurtured over 1.15 lakh saplings, creating a strong green network across Mysuru city and surrounding districts.

Moral dilemma deepens over animal protection policies

SUHANA SHIPRA

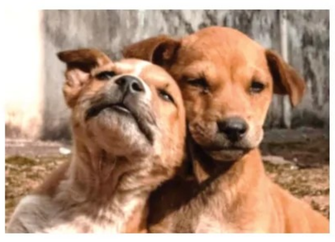
Animal welfare is oftentimes more than just posting pictures of your fur babies. It's a lot more complex than many people think. Our moral dilemma comes in places where questions start to arise—questions people don't look forward to confronting. The grey area.

Questions like: Is veganism the end goal to protecting animals? Is the law just muscles without morality? Is one animal better than the other?

Take the current case of the bill that was supposed to be passed for the euthanisation of street dogs in Delhi. What about dog bites? Rabies? Protection? These are some of the questions we all have but are afraid to confront.

Let's confront the elephant in the room. When we question the government about animal welfare, let alone its right to life, we're often met with bigger issues being thrown across the room, such as education, welfare, and society. Which all boils down to one point—humans consider themselves more important than animals.

So, is breaking the law mandatory for protection when the law itself doesn't provide any justice?



Let's hear what animal welfare activist Spita Biswas has to say about it.

Biswas states that she believes in economic development, but it should never come at the permanent cost of forests, as they provide livelihood and life to millions of humans and creatures. Let's look at the example of the Hasdeo Arand region. Its mining proposal built controversy due to it being one of India's largest ecosystems and an important elephant habitat.

This is the balancing issue between economic development and the protection of our ecosystem. Biswas says that development should follow sustainable practices so natural conservation and economic growth can coexist together.

Let's ask what the government does to protect our wildlife, and whether those measures are strong enough. To this, Biswas states that even though India has strong wildlife protection laws on paper, the implementation process remains challenging. Illegal hunting, habitat destruction, poaching, and wildlife trafficking still continue due to weak enforcement, lack of awareness, and limited resources.

She states that the laws are primarily strong but need stricter monitoring, faster punishment, and, most importantly, public awareness—which is actually the game changer.

India has had various successful initiatives, such as Project Tiger, which resulted in a significant increase in tiger numbers through protected reserves, anti-poaching measures, and awareness campaigns. However, illegal wildlife trade still exists. Therefore, the issue is not only about stronger laws but also about improving implementation and public participation.Concluding our point, humans consider themselves to be narcissistically superior to any other being walking on the planet, forgetting how much we take from nature and how inhumanely we often return the favour. So let this be an apprehension that, in pushing enough, we may eventually have to return to the very nature from which we have taken so much.

Birth anniversary of Nalvadi: Rich tributes paid by dignitaries

MYSURU

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the illustrious ruler of Karnataka, the pride of the Yadu dynasty, the architect of the University of Mysore, the visionary behind Asia's first hydroelectric power station at Shivanasamudra, the builder of the Kannambadi Dam, and the great Rajarshi who promoted education among backward classes, Dalits, and girls, His Highness Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, floral tributes were offered to his portrait in front of the Varaha Gate at the southern entrance of Mysore Palace on Wednesday.

Speaking after paying floral respects to Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar's portrait, MLC C.N. Manjegowda described Nalwadi as one of the greatest monarchs the country has ever seen. He said Nalwadi was a revered statesman, a pioneer of development, and the driving force behind landmark initiatives such as the Kannambadi Dam, the University of Mysore, and the Shivanasamudra hydroelectric project, among several other innovative schemes.

He noted that Nalwadi dedicated his life to the welfare and protection of his subjects. Rather than expanding his kingdom through conquest, he focused on developmental works and thereby earned a permanent place in the hearts of the people. He urged the State Government to introduce and familiarize the younger generation with the life and achievements of such a great leader through commemorative programmes.

A.P. Nagesh, President of APN Properties, distributed the famous Mysore Pak to tourists visiting the palace.

Senior social worker Dr. Raghuram K. Vajapeyi also spoke.

Tejesh Lokesh Gowda, President of Karnataka Sena Pade, urged the State Government to include the biography of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar in school textbooks and called upon the Central Government to confer the Bharat Ratna on him posthumously.

Among the chief guests present were T.S. Subrahmanya, Deputy Director of the Palace Board; S. Jayaprakash, President of Kaveri Kriya Samiti; S.B.M. Manju, JDS City President; K.B. Lingaraju, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry; social worker M.N. Doreswamy and others.

ACP Chandrashekhar champions cycling on World Bicycle Day in Mysuru

MYSURU

Emphasising the importance of physical fitness, discipline, and an eco-friendly lifestyle, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Chandrashekhar of the Mysuru Palace Sub-Division urged youth and the general public to incorporate cycling into their daily lives.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the valedictory ceremony of the World Bicycle Day Cycle Rally organised jointly by Government Youth Hostel, MY Bharat Mysuru, Mysuru Athletes Club, Royal Riders Mysuru, Cyclopedia Mysuru, and Mysuru Cycling Teams.

More than 50 cyclists participated in the event, spreading awareness about healthy living, road safety, and environmental conservation.

Earlier, the rally was flagged off near Kote Anjaneya Swamy Temple by B. Manjunath, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Libraries. Retired Deputy Commissioner of the Commercial Taxes Department Ramesh Narasayya and Balya Foundation President Anil were also present on the occasion.

QUICK READ

Chitradurga KDP meeting postponed

CHITRADURGA

The quarterly KDP meeting scheduled at Chitradurga Taluk Panchayat Sabha Hall on June 4 at 10.30 am has been postponed on the directions of MLA K C Veerendra Pappi. Officials said the next meeting date will be announced after obtaining approval from the elected representatives. Participants and public members were informed about the postponement and requested to wait for revised schedule. Authorities stated that the decision was taken following administrative instructions and coordination with local representatives to ensure proper arrangements for the meeting.

Legal awareness programme for ex-servicemen

CHITRADURGA

A legal awareness programme under Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana will be held on June 7 at 10.30 am at the Sabha Bhavan of State Government Employees House in Shivamogga city. The event is jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority and the Sainik Welfare and Rehabilitation Department. The programme will provide information on free legal services for serving soldiers, ex-servicemen, veterans, and their dependents. Officials said participants from Shivamogga, Davangere, and Chitradurga districts are invited to attend and benefit from the initiative. Deputy Director Dr C A Hiremath has urged eligible families to take part and make use of the support services available. For details, contact 08182-220925.

KSMCA opens new branch office in Karwar

Karwar

The Karnataka State Marketing Communication and Advertising Limited (KSMCA) has announced the establishment of its new branch office in Karwar, Uttara Kannada district, to strengthen its public communication and advertising operations in the region. According to an official communication issued by the branch office, the facility, located near the new bus stand area on the outskirts of Karwar, became operational following its inauguration earlier this year. The office will handle public relations activities, advertising coordination and dissemination of information through KSMCA. The branch has requested all departments and agencies to send advertisement-related correspondence and bills directly to the Karwar office. It has also sought complimentary copies of newspapers carrying its advertisements and publications.

Chitradurga completes major voter revision mapping drive process

Out of 14,40,316 voters, 13,96,284 are mapped; BLO surveys run June 30–July 29, with draft list on August 5

CHITRADURGA

As per the directions of the Election Commission, the Special Comprehensive Revision process of the voter list is being implemented in Chitradurga district and Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh said that 96.94 percent voter mapping has already been completed with systematic preparations in place. He shared this information at a press conference held at the Deputy Commissioner's office hall and said the revision will ensure no eligible voter is left out or deprived of voting rights.

Continuous preparations have been carried out for six months and the 2002 voter list is used as benchmark for comparison with the current 2025 list through Booth Level Officer household verification.

According to officials, out of 14,40,316 voters, 13,96,284 have been mapped while 44,032 untraceable voters are being verified through notices and special field operations. BLOs will conduct house to house surveys from June 30 to July 29 and draft voter list will be published on August 5 after verification and data collection.

The final voter list will be published on October 7 after objections are resolved and all political parties have been urged to support the process.

Officials said polling booth limits have been fixed at 1,200 voters in rural areas and steps are being taken to create additional booths where needed.

Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh requested cooperation from citizens and political parties while saying training and awareness programs for BLOs are being strengthened across the district.

Additional Deputy Commissioner B. T. Kumaraswamy, Deputy Divisional Officer Dr. K. J. Kantaraj, Special Land Acquisition Officer Venkatesh Naik, Election Tahsildar B. B. Patima and other officials attended the press conference and reviewed the revision process in detail and emphasized that voter inclusion, transparency and accuracy are the main priorities of the Special Comprehensive Revision exercise across Chitradurga district. They said the process is being carried out as per Election Commission guidelines and will help strengthen democratic participation by ensuring that every eligible voter is properly registered and verified before the final publication of the revised voter list in October this year.

Tobacco awareness day marked with various programs

MADIKERI

The District Administration along with Zilla Panchayat, District Legal Services Authority, Health and Family Welfare Department, Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, District Tobacco Control Unit and Indian Red Cross Society organized World No Tobacco Day 2026 program at the institute auditorium on Wednesday.

Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary Shubha inaugurated the event and said that tobacco use among youth is increasing and strong awareness is needed to protect their lives and guide them away from addiction.

Dr Lokesh, Dean and Director, presided over the program and said tobacco addiction is harming society and public awareness is essential for building a healthy community.

RTO warns Mangaluru bus operators on route violations issue

MANGALURU

The Regional Transport Office in Mangaluru has intensified inspections of city and KSRTC bus operations following complaints that several services are not adhering to approved routes and timetables. Authorities have warned operators that permits may be cancelled if violations continue.

Officials said more than 300 buses operate daily in the city, but many private operators reportedly reduce trips during Sundays and public holidays due to lower passenger demand, leaving commuters stranded. Passengers allege buses often skip routes or remain parked at fuel stations instead of operating as scheduled.

The administration has made GPS tracking mandatory for city buses to monitor compliance and ensure they follow permitted routes. Complaints have been frequent from areas such as Saripalla Bajal Shaktinagar and Maroli, where residents say buses often fail to operate regularly.

Transport officials said repeated violations will attract strict action including suspension or cancellation of route permits. Mangaluru RTO Muragendra Shirolkar said the department will maintain close surveillance and issue warnings before taking firm action.

Officials added that GPS data from buses will be reviewed regularly to identify route deviations and repeated non-compliance cases.

Commuters have welcomed the move, stating that strict enforcement is necessary to improve reliability of public transport in Mangaluru city.

Strict action ordered on tobacco sales near schools

KARWAR

The ADC directed inspections of tobacco sales near schools and colleges, removal of violators, and steps to declare all educational institutions tobacco-free zones

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sajid Mulla has directed officials to strictly enforce the ban on tobacco sales within 100 yards of educational institutions in the district and ensure full compliance with the provisions of the COTPA Act.

He was speaking while presiding over the District Level Coordination Committee meeting of the District Tobacco Control Cell held at the Deputy Commissioner's office hall on Wednesday. He emphasized that stronger enforcement is needed to protect students from exposure to tobacco products.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner instructed officials from the Education Department and Pre-University Education Department to conduct inspections and submit reports on tobacco sales near schools and colleges. He said that if any shops are found violating the rule, they should be removed immediately. He also directed authorities to take steps to declare all educational institutions as tobacco-free zones.

He further ordered large-scale raids across the district to identify violations of the COTPA Act. He stressed the need for strict monitoring of tobacco manufacturers, sellers, and traders to ensure full compliance with regulations. He also instructed urban local bodies to create awareness among traders about obtaining proper licenses for tobacco sales.

Officials informed the meeting that several villages in the district have already been identified under the tobacco-free village initiative. Out of these, eight villages have been declared tobacco-free, and efforts are underway to declare the remaining villages soon.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner also instructed all government offices to be declared tobacco-free and to display official signboards confirming the status. Departments were asked to submit compliance reports after implementation.

Officials reported that between April 2025 and March 2026, authorities conducted extensive enforcement under the COTPA Act, collecting fines in multiple cases and organizing awareness programmes in schools, colleges, and communities across the district.

Collector Prabhu urged children to use facilities and study well, directing awareness on child safety and protection laws

COLLECTOR INTERACTS WITH COVID AFFECTED CHILDREN

CHIKKABALLAPUR

District Collector G. Prabhu interacted with children who lost their parents during the Covid-19 pandemic and encouraged them to focus on education and build a better future using government support schemes. He spoke while presiding over the PM CARES compliance committee meeting held at the District Collector's office hall on Wednesday. He said that 16 children in the district were left without parental care due to Covid-19 and currently 9 children are benefiting under the PM CARES scheme.

The Collector explained that under this scheme, a joint account is opened for children below 18 years and financial support ranging from Rs 3,58,621 to Rs 10 lakh is deposited in post office accounts depending on eligibility guidelines. He added that the total amount can be accessed when the child turns 23 years old, while Rs 10 lakh is credited when they complete 18 years, along with monthly interest benefits and educational assistance.

Students from class 1 to 12 also receive an annual scholarship of Rs 20,000 and additional monthly support is provided under sponsorship and state welfare programmes. The government also provides Rs 4,000 monthly incentive under sponsorship schemes and Rs 3,500 assistance from the state for children's education and care. He said children are also covered under PM Jan Dhan and insurance schemes that provide medical coverage up to Rs 5 lakh for emergencies and healthcare needs.

Collector Prabhu urged children to make full use of these facilities and concentrate on studies to achieve success in life despite difficult circumstances. He instructed officials from the Women and Child Development Department to conduct awareness programmes in schools on child safety topics including good touch and bad touch to protect children from abuse. He also directed taluk level officers to prepare detailed school wise schedules for awareness sessions and ensure strict implementation of child protection laws across the district.

District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary B. Shilpa, child protection officers and other officials attended the programme and assured continued support for orphaned children under government welfare schemes. The Collector told the children that the administration stands with them and they can approach officials at any time for help and guidance in education and personal development. He said the government will bear educational expenses and ensure hostel facilities so that no child is deprived of learning opportunities due to financial hardship in the district.

Kaapu civic body flags NH-66 safety issues

KAAPU

The Kaapu Town Municipal Council's general meeting held on Wednesday witnessed detailed discussions on multiple civic issues, including safety concerns on National Highway 66, traffic congestion, illegal homestays and resorts, and sewage management within municipal limits.

The meeting was chaired by municipal president Mohini Shetty, where members raised concerns over frequent accidents on the NH-66 service road and demanded urgent safety measures. National Highways Authority engineer Vignesh informed the council that work has begun at identified waterlogging points along the highway and assured further action after detailed assessment.

Council members demanded installation of rubber speed breakers on the service road and opening of a median gap near Maya Granite to ease congestion. However, the highway engineer stated that approval is still pending for these measures, leading to disagreement among members.

Standing Committee Chairman Kiran Alva and several members strongly urged authorities to restrict express bus movement on the service road due to safety risks. Concerns were also raised over the absence of streetlights and lack of infrastructure despite toll collection on the highway.

Chief Officer Neelakantha Mesta said a joint survey with the Public Works Department has been completed to address traffic issues, and a comprehensive action plan will be prepared in coordination with the police and RTO.Members also demanded strict action against illegal constructions obstructing public land and parking spaces. The chief officer assured that the matter would be reviewed.The council further discussed illegal homestays and resorts, with officials stating that 29 such establishments exist within limits, including four identified as illegal. A survey of remaining properties is underway, and members demanded stronger enforcement measures including electricity disconnection for unauthorised units.

72-year government school in Sullia faces closure

SULLIA

The Government Lower Primary School at Kalpathabailu in Kodiyala village of Sullia taluk has been forced to suspend its operations after failing to secure any student admissions for the academic year 2026–27. The closure marks the first time in the 72-year history of the institution that it has remained shut due to zero enrolment.

Established in 1954, the school once served children from Kalpathabailu and surrounding villages and played a key role in providing basic education to several generations. However, over the years, declining student strength, shortage of teachers, and migration of families to nearby towns have severely affected admissions.

In the previous academic year, the school had only six students. However, parents later obtained transfer certificates and shifted their children to better-equipped schools in Peruvaje and Bellare, citing concerns over limited teaching staff and academic facilities.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS

Kolar youth demand strong action against drugs

KOLAR

Concerned over the growing drug menace in Karnataka, youth from Gowripet in Kolar city have urged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to take immediate and strict action to protect the younger generation from substance abuse and illegal drug trafficking.

The youth expressed serious concern that the increasing availability of drugs is destroying the lives of students, young people, and families. They said drug addiction has become a major social problem leading to crime, health issues, academic failure, and the breakdown of family and community life.

They stressed that the future of Karnataka depends on the health and safety of its youth. In their appeal, they demanded the formation of a special anti-drug task force across the state to tackle the issue in a focused and effective manner. They also called for strict action against drug mafia networks and illegal drug dealers operating in various parts of the state.

The group further urged the government to conduct regular raids on suspected drug hotspots such as pubs, clubs, and other vulnerable locations. They also requested close monitoring of online platforms that may be used for illegal drug supply and distribution.

In addition, they emphasized the need for awareness programmes in schools, colleges, and other educational institutions to educate students about the dangers of drug use. They also suggested providing rehabilitation and de-addiction support services for those affected by substance abuse.

The youth appealed for the establishment of a dedicated drug complaint and helpline system to help people report illegal activities quickly. They expressed confidence that strong leadership and immediate government intervention would help build a safer and drug-free Karnataka.

Silent march demands safety for Jain saints

HUBBALLI

Members of the Jain community in Hubballi held a massive silent march demanding better safety measures for Jain monks and sadhvis travelling on national and state highways. The community expressed deep concern over repeated road accidents involving saints who spread the message of non-violence, peace, and spirituality during their padayatras.

The march was organized following a recent series of accidents in which several Jain saints lost their lives. More than 4,000 people participated in the procession, showing strong unity and concern for the safety of religious leaders. The participants urged the government to take immediate and effective steps to prevent such tragedies in the future.

After the peaceful march, community leaders submitted a memorandum to both the state and central governments through the local tehsildar. They requested special arrangements to ensure the protection of Jain monks and sadhvis during their travel on highways and rural roads.

QUICK READ

GPS tracker helps recover stolen forest jeep in Mangaluru

Mangaluru

A GPS tracking system helped forest officials recover a stolen Forest Department jeep and arrest a suspect in Mangaluru. The accused, Nadeem (23) from Kozhikode, Kerala, allegedly stole the vehicle from the Forest Department residential complex in Padil and attempted to flee towards Kundapur. Officials said he broke a window, used a spare key inside the vehicle, and drove away early Monday morning. The theft was detected when staff noticed the missing jeep, and GPS tracking later showed its location near Koteshwara. Forest officials intercepted the vehicle, but the accused tried to escape again before being caught. Police said he also refuelled at a Kuloor petrol station without payment. He was later arrested, produced before court, and remanded to judicial custody.

₹5 crore sanctioned for Maski APMC development

Maski

The Karnataka government has released ₹5 crore for the comprehensive development of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) in Maski, said committee president Siddanagouda Matur. He stated that the grant was approved following a request made during a visit by Agriculture Minister Shivananad Patil and representations by the APMC governing body and local MLA R. Basanagouda Turvihal after Maski was upgraded as an independent agricultural market. The funds will be used to improve infrastructure, including drinking water facilities, a modern toilet complex, a farmers' building, boundary wall construction, shop development, and a main entrance gate. The upgrades aim to benefit farmers, traders, and the public. Officials said the development works will strengthen market facilities and improve overall efficiency at the APMC yard in Maski.

Husband arrested in wife murder case

BALLARI

Police have arrested husband Noor Ahmed in connection with the murder of his wife Afrin Banu in Ballari district. According to police Afrin Banu a resident of Parotamma Gudi in Kaulbazar was married to Noor Ahmed and the couple had an eight-month-old son.

Due to marital discord Afrin had been staying at her parental home for some time before the incident.

Bhatkal calls bandh over Murinakatte demolition row

Organisations demanded reconstruction after a structure built on May 24 was demolished, alleging hurt religious sentiments and concern

BHATKAL

Tension continues to mount over the demolition of a newly constructed platform at Murinakatte, with a federation of Hindu organisations announcing a voluntary bandh and protest rally in Bhatkal on June 5. The move has intensified local political and social discussions surrounding the incident.

The organisations are demanding the reconstruction of the structure, which was reportedly built on May 24 under the supervision of local

authorities and with police protection. According to them, its subsequent demolition on the same day has hurt religious sentiments and sparked widespread concern among the Hindu community.

Following a joint meeting of several Hindu groups, a resolution was passed insisting that the platform be rebuilt at the same location without delay. Leaders said the planned protest is intended to draw the attention of both the state government and district administration to their demands and seek what they describe as a permanent solution.

As part of the agitation, shopkeepers and business owners have been requested to voluntarily close establishments during the bandh period on June 5 afternoon. Organisers claim that widespread participation will reflect public sentiment and strengthen their demand for reconstruction.

A rally is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. from Sri Chennapattana Hanuman Temple and will proceed through key parts of the town before concluding at the Taluk Administrative Office. A memorandum will be submitted to officials seeking immediate action on reconstruction and accountability for the demolition.

Preparatory meetings and mobilisation efforts are being carried out at the gram panchayat level, with organisers expecting a large turnout of supporters for the protest. The situation has already drawn considerable attention in political circles.

Earlier, a BJP-led delegation including opposition leader R. Ashoka and MP Visweshwara Hegde Kageri had visited the site and demanded action, further escalating the issue.

The June 5 bandh is expected to heighten pressure on the administration as the controversy continues to unfold.

Court fines vehicle owner for minor driving

BHATKAL

Bhatkal court has imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on a vehicle owner for allowing a minor boy to drive a two wheeler. Murdeshwar police registered a case against Seema Akhtar Sheikh Muhiuddin Shiruru, a resident of National Colony under Murdeshwar police station, for permitting a minor to ride a two wheeler. Police filed chargesheet under Section 5 and 199(A) of Motor Vehicles Act.

The Bhatkal Senior Civil Court heard the case and found the vehicle owner guilty and imposed the fine on June 2. Police have warned that minors should not be allowed to drive two wheelers and strict legal action will be taken against parents and vehicle owners who violate traffic rules in future cases across the region.

Hostel seat shortage worsens across in Dakshina Kannada

BANTWAL

With the reopening of schools and colleges for the new academic year, the demand for hostel accommodation across Dakshina Kannada district has surged sharply, leaving hundreds of students on waiting lists. The shortage, already prominent in Mangaluru city, is now deeply affecting rural taluks such as Sullia, Belthangady, Puttur and Bantwal.

Officials from the Social Welfare and Backward Classes Welfare departments say applications for government hostels have increased steadily every year, far exceeding available capacity. The crisis is especially severe in Belthangady and Sullia, where nearly 200 students in each taluk are reportedly left without seats even after admissions are completed.

In Ujire, the situation remains unchanged for years, with around 200 students unable to secure accommodation in the Backward Classes Welfare Department boys' hostel annually. Similar shortages have been reported in multiple institutions across the district, forcing many students to either travel long distances daily or abandon hostel-based education support altogether.

At present, Dakshina Kannada has 21 pre-matric hostels with a combined capacity of 1,005 students and 82 post-matric hostels accommodating 8,731 students. Despite this infrastructure, demand continues to outstrip supply every academic year, highlighting the widening gap between student needs and available facilities.

Compounding the issue, several hostel buildings in rural areas remain underutilised. The boys' hostel at the Government Polytechnic College in Girigudde, Bantwal, has reportedly fallen into disrepair due to prolonged non-use, raising concerns about poor resource management.

Officials said hostel applications are rising yearly, exceeding capacity, with about 200 students in Belthangady and Sullia left without seats after admissions

Under the Social Welfare Department, Bantwal taluk operates three hostels, while the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department manages two hostels in Adyanadka and Vitla. However, local leaders and education stakeholders say these are still insufficient given the rising student population.A newly constructed post-matric hostel building at Balthila, built at a cost of ₹6.5 crore, remains non-operational due to delays in staff appointments and government approval. Residents and officials are urging authorities to operationalise the facility immediately to ease the growing hostel shortage across the district.

AWARENESS RALLY URGES TOBACCO-FREE SOCIETY PUSH

CHITRADURGA

Health officials have raised concern over the growing impact of tobacco use in India, stating that nearly 13.5 lakh people die every year due to tobacco-related diseases. District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. N. Kashi said that even in Karnataka, youths above 15 years are increasingly falling into tobacco addiction.

He was speaking after launching an awareness rally held as part of World No Tobacco Day on Wednesday at Basappa Hospital premises in Chitradurga. The programme was jointly organized by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Health and Family Welfare Department, District Tobacco Control Cell, and Vivekananda Group of Institutions.

Dr. Kashi said this year's theme is "Unmasking the Allure – Confronting Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction." He added that the National Tobacco Control Programme

will be strictly implemented across the district with coordinated efforts from multiple departments to reduce tobacco use and protect public health.

He announced that several awareness activities will be conducted, including campaigns against smoking in public places, strict action against tobacco sales near schools and colleges, counselling for addicts, and efforts to declare more villages tobacco-free. He also highlighted the achievements of the District Tobacco Control Cell, which reached over 16,000 students in 102 institutions and declared 78 institutions tobacco-free.

Officials informed that 92 enforcement operations were carried out, along with multiple review meetings, training programmes, and awareness campaigns across the district. They also reported counselling support for thousands of tobacco users, with several individuals successfully quitting the habit.The awareness rally began at Basappa Hospital and passed through Turuvanur Road up to Reddy Kalyana Mantapa before returning to the hospital, spreading messages on the harmful effects of tobacco.

No fuel shortage in district, says Collector

CHITRADURGA

District Collector T. Venkatesh has confirmed that there is no shortage of petrol and diesel in the district and that fuel supply is running normally. He was speaking while chairing a meeting with officials of oil companies and the Food Department held at the District Collector's office hall on Wednesday.

He said that adequate stock of petrol and diesel is available and supply is continuing without any disruption. He warned that strict legal action will be taken under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against anyone involved in illegal stocking or creating artificial shortage. He instructed that bulk and commercial buyers should directly purchase fuel from oil companies instead of relying on petrol stations. He also said that selling diesel in plastic cans at petrol stations should not be encouraged.

The Collector further directed officials to control unnecessary crowding at fuel stations and ensure proper law and order. He stressed the need for strict monitoring to prevent black marketing, unauthorized storage and illegal sale of fuel. He added that continuous coordination with oil companies must be maintained to meet public demand smoothly and avoid panic among consumers.

Officials from Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited informed the meeting that fuel supply in the district remains stable and uninterrupted.Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department Joint Director Shidrama Marihala, IOCL Sales Officer Pratap, BPCL Sales Officer Jayachandra and HPCL Sales Officer Sumanth were present in the meeting.

Fishing harbour in Mangaluru turns quiet after ban

MANGALURU

One of Karnataka's busiest coastal commercial hubs has fallen unusually silent as the annual two-month fishing ban comes into effect along the coast. The Mangaluru Fishing Harbour, which normally remains packed with vessels, labourers, traders and transport activity, has now entered a complete phase of inactivity.

The ban on mechanised and trawl fishing, which is enforced every year from June 1 to July 31, has brought most harbour operations to a halt. The restriction is implemented to support marine conservation, allowing fish breeding during the monsoon season and ensuring long-term sustainability of fish resources along the Karnataka coast.

At present, the harbour presents a striking contrast to its usual self. Instead of continuous movement of boats

and loading activity, rows of fishing vessels are now anchored and motionless. With berthing space at the main jetty fully occupied, additional boats have been shifted to nearby areas such as Bengre, Bunderi and Kuloor for temporary parking.

Even though fishing has stopped, boat owners and crew members are actively engaged in maintenance work. Engines are being repaired, hulls repainted, nets mended and mechanical parts serviced to prepare vessels for the next season. This period is traditionally used for overhaul and upkeep of equipment.

The shutdown has also had a direct impact on the local economy. The roads surrounding the harbour, which usually witness heavy congestion due to fish transport vehicles, now appear largely empty. Small eateries, tea stalls and vendors who depend on daily harbour workers have reported a sharp decline in business activity.

With local catch unavailable, fish markets in the region will now depend on supplies from Gujarat, Chennai and other coastal states. Traders note that such imported fish often comes at higher prices and is comparatively less fresh than locally sourced varieties.

The suspension of fishing activities has also affected migrant labourers who form a major part of the harbour workforce. Many workers involved in loading, unloading, processing and transport have returned to their native places, while others are seeking temporary employment until operations resume after the

District prepares grand International Yoga Day celebration

MADIKERI

District officials have instructed departments to make the International Yoga Day celebrations on June 21 a meaningful success and ensure smooth coordination among all stakeholders. District Commissioner S J Somashekar chaired a preliminary meeting and asked officials to provide necessary support including transport arrangements for students from schools colleges and hostels. He emphasized yoga training for officials under AYUSH Department and suggested better use of existing facilities while also promoting yoga along with tourism in Kodagu district.

District AYUSH officer Dr Shailaja G provided details about venue selection guidelines yoga practitioner mobilisation and rehearsal of yoga asanas according to protocol.

Awareness rally promotes tobacco-free society message

VIJAYAPURA

Authorities and experts have called on youth to stay away from tobacco and other harmful habits and contribute to building a healthy and disciplined society. The appeal was made during the World No Tobacco Day programme organized in the city on Wednesday.

Senior Civil Judge and Member of the District Legal Services Authority, Aravind S. Hagaragi, said that students are the future of the country and must avoid harmful habits such as smoking and tobacco

consumption. He stressed that young people should lead disciplined lives and play an important role in creating a tobacco-free society.

The programme was jointly organized by the District Administration, District Legal Services Authority, District Health and Family Welfare Department, Taluk Health Officers' Office, Indian Cancer Society (Kalaburagi branch), Nagore Nursing College, and other institutions at the District Health and Family Welfare Officers' Hall.

Experts also highlighted health risks associated with tobacco use. District Hospital specialist Dr. M.T.R. Kotwal said that people must remain alert to prevent cancer and seek early diagnosis and treatment. He urged students not only to avoid tobacco but also to spread awareness among their families, friends, and communities.

Psychiatrist Dr. Manjunath Masali encouraged students to develop a positive attitude and adopt healthy lifestyle habits free from addictions. He emphasized that a strong mindset helps in maintaining both physical and mental well-being.

As part of the event, representatives of the Indian Cancer Society administered a pledge to participants, urging them to stay away from tobacco products and support efforts to build a tobacco-free society.

Kusharaj Parannavar Birthday Event Draws Praise Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA

Senior leader and entrepreneur Kusharaj Parannavar said that faith in God, selfless service and people's love are the true protection in life during his 58th birthday celebration held at Sri Sundareshwar Temple. He attended the event organized by Sadhaktara Bhajana Mandali and expressed gratitude for the affection and blessings received from well-wishers and devotees.

Speakers including Justice Danesh Avati and Sanatan Hindu Sanrakshan Samiti President Suresh Gowda Ka Patil praised his social service and positive influence in society. They said he helps people in need and spreads happiness through social work and community engagement wishing him continued health and success in future life. The program concluded with special prayers at Sri Sundareshwar Temple, followed by distribution of prasadam and blessings among devotees present.

Several community leaders, social workers and local dignitaries including organizers of the Bhajana Mandali participated in the celebration and extended their greetings.

QUICK READ

Kalyan faces complaint over Gaddar remarks

HYDERABAD

A formal police complaint was filed against Janasena Party chief Pawan Kalyan for allegedly defaming the late revolutionary singer Gaddar. The complaint stems from a broadcast press conference where Kalyan claimed Gaddar requested and received a car from him. Complainants called the statement a fabricated, self-aggrandizing lie designed to humiliate the revered Dalit icon and Telangana freedom fighter. Advocates argue that targeting the deceased leader's dignity insults the Scheduled Caste community. They are urging police to investigate Kalyan under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Atrocities Act for criminal defamation.

Serial matrimonial fraudster arrested in Kolkata

KOLKATA

Police arrested a serial fraudster for allegedly swindling multiple women of cash and jewellery after promising marriage. The suspect, Matiur Rahman, posed as a wealthy professional earning millions on matrimonial websites using a fake identity. A victim from Naihati exposed the scam after growing suspicious of Rahman's constant financial demands, which included eighty-five thousand rupees and gold ornaments. Her private social media investigation uncovered a shocking trail of deceit, revealing that Rahman had allegedly defrauded and married fifteen different women. Authorities apprehended the suspect following a formal police complaint.

Controversial population remarks spark political row

BHOPAL

Firebrand BJP legislator Rameshwar Sharma ignited a massive political controversy by claiming that a rising Muslim population is shifting regional demographics and fostering societal tension. Speaking to reporters, Sharma advocated for a strict population control law and a comprehensive Uniform Civil Code. He urged the opposition Congress party to back these initiatives, recalling former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's historical emphasis on family planning. This provocative statement arrives just two days after Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced that the state government is actively drafting a uniform legal framework for family matters.

Court allows Kolkata civic body monthly meetings

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court ruled that Kolkata Municipal Corporation Chairperson Mala Roy can legally convene monthly civic body meetings. The decision follows a tense political standoff where council members were locked out of a scheduled assembly, sparking a major legal dispute. Judges ordered the corporation to submit all recent meeting resolutions via affidavit by June 9. This crucial verdict arrives amid intense speculation regarding the potential dissolution.

Union Bank to handle Vadhvan Port payouts

The Palghar District Administration moved its Vadhvan Port Project land acquisition account to Union Bank of India to boost transparency and ease rural compensation payouts

PALGHAR

The Palghar District Administration has decided to move its official land acquisition compensation account for the massive Vadhvan Port Project to the state-run Union Bank of India.

The strategic transition is specifically aimed at increasing administrative transparency, tightening financial accountability, and boosting beneficiary confidence during the payout process.

Local authorities confirmed that all administrative formalities are complete, and funds are actively being transferred out of the project's previous private sector bank.

A similar banking transition is currently underway for the Palghar land acquisition branch. Local officials clarified that while the earlier private banking arrangement met immediate administrative needs at the time, a recent review alongside local villagers and public representatives highlighted the clear necessity of utilizing a nationalized institution for public convenience.

By transitioning to a trusted public sector bank, the government hopes to leverage a vast regional branch network to improve accessibility for rural communities.

Interestingly, Union Bank of India already boasts a highly successful track record in the region, having seamlessly managed massive compensation portfolios for the high-stakes Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (Bullet Train) Project over the past several years.

To ensure a completely hassle-free experience, the district administration has ordered the bank to deploy special outreach teams directly into the affected coastal villages to assist citizens with paperwork.

As one of India's most critical infrastructure developments, the landmark Vadhvan Port Project is expected to unlock major economic opportunities, and local authorities remain fully committed to delivering all legal entitlements in a timely, secure manner.

Omar flags off Srinagar World Bicycle Day Cyclothon

SRINAGAR

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah flagged off a Srinagar cyclothon on World Bicycle Day to promote fitness and sustainability

To celebrate World Bicycle Day, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah flagged off a massive cyclothon at the Royal Springs Golf Course in Srinagar.

The lively event highlighted his administration's strong commitment to promoting physical health, active sports culture, and sustainable living among local youth.

Organized by the J&K Sports Council under its popular "My Youth My Pride" initiative, the event drew a vibrant crowd of cyclists, students, and sports enthusiasts from across the Valley. The 20-kilometer awareness ride traveled along Foreshore Road toward Duck Park. During the gathering, Abdullah launched the official mascot, jersey, and promotional campaign for the upcoming Jammu Cyclothon. He also announced that the future Kashmir Cyclothon will be elevated to a national-level competition to attract top talent from all over India and establish the region as a major hub for adventure sports.

Interacting closely with the participants, the Chief Minister praised the rising popularity of cycling in the region. He emphasized that bicycles are not only an environmentally sustainable mode of transport that preserves nature, but also an excellent tool for improving mental and physical well-being.

ECI hosts global meet on digital misinformation

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) inaugurated a vital two-day international conference to address the rising challenges of digital misinformation and political campaigns.

Held at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management, the summit unites election administrators, tech experts, and academics from around the world.

Over 480 delegates, including grassroots election officers and research scholars, are participating in the event. Addressing the assembly, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar emphasized that extensive voter education and rigorous training of booth-level staff have significantly reinforced public trust. He noted that this high level of voter confidence was clearly reflected in the record-breaking turnout during the recently concluded assembly elections.

Organized under India's 2026 chairship of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the conference focuses on the dark side of modern campaign technology.

Key sessions are analyzing the global threat of artificial intelligence-generated deepfakes, synthetic media, and non-transparent digital political advertising.

Delegates are discussing ways to hold major online platforms accountable for content circulating during sensitive voting windows.

The ultimately shared goal is to document international standards and model practices into a comprehensive knowledge resource. The insights and recommendations emerging from these panels will directly contribute to a major thematic report under the Delhi Declaration, which was originally adopted in January. By gathering global experts, the ECI aims to build a robust, united front to protect democratic integrity against digital manipulation.

JD(U) hits 1 cr members, joins elite Bihar club

PATNA

The Janata Dal (United) has achieved a major organizational milestone by officially crossing the one-crore (10 million) membership mark.

With this massive expansion, the party has successfully entered the elite club of Bihar's largest political organizations, sharing the space with its prominent rivals, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).

According to the party's national working president, Sanjay Jha, the extensive booth-level membership drive was originally launched by Nitish Kumar on December 6, 2025. By June 2, 2026, the campaign had successfully enrolled a total of 1,00,01,925 members. In a statement celebrating the achievement, Jha congratulated grassroots party workers for their relentless ground efforts and thanked the citizens of Bihar for their overwhelming support.

The successful drive is part of the party's strategic long-term organizational plan spanning from 2025 to 2028. Enrolling over a crore members in just six months marks a vital step toward the JD(U)'s ultimate goal of cementing its position as the state's most powerful political force by 2028.

The milestone highlights a dramatic resurgence in the party's political fortunes and growing competition in Bihar's political theater.

By crossing the one-crore mark, the JD(U) is quickly narrowing the gap with its peers. The BJP currently commands approximately 1.56 crore members in the state, while the RJD also claims a base exceeding one crore. Senior leader Umesh Kushwaha hailed the milestone as a landmark moment that reflects deep public confidence in the party's vision for a developed Bihar. The JD(U) has scheduled a high-level National Executive Committee meeting on June 21 to evaluate these new numbers and draft its upcoming political strategies.

JD(U) resurgence

- 2020 Assembly Elections: The JD(U) won 43 seats, slipping to the third-largest party in the state.
- 2024 Lok Sabha Elections: The party experienced a strong revival, securing 12 parliamentary seats to match the BJP's tally.
- 2025 Assembly Elections: The party substantially improved its ground game, winning 85 seats.

Delhi ministers take e-bus to project launch

NEW DELHI

In a bid to curb pollution and save fuel, Delhi Ministers Parvesh Verma and Ravinder Indraj Singh ditched their usual convoys. Instead, they travelled via an electric bus with government officials to inaugurate a new Public Works Department (PWD) drainage project at Begumpur-Kanjhawala Chowk.

PWD Minister Verma explained that the decision aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to conserve fuel amid rising global crude oil prices.

Rather than clogging the roads with 20 to 25 separate vehicles, the team pooled into a single eco-friendly bus.

This collective journey turned into an active field inspection. Minister Verma noted that the group stopped to review 20 different locations along the route, allowing ministers and officials to discuss immediate solutions for local civic issues on the spot. This initiative builds on the city's year-old 'Government on Wheels' concept.

The trip led to the launch of a new drainage project worth ₹43 crore, aimed at providing relief to regularised colonies that have long suffered without proper infrastructure. Minister Singh criticised previous administrations, including the former AAP government, for neglecting these essential services.

According to the ministers, the current BJP-led Delhi government under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

Bengal expands subsidised food, border fencing

KOLKATA

The newly expanded West Bengal Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, approved several landmark decisions during its first official meeting.

The key resolutions include critical land transfers for national security, welfare expansion, and major cultural celebrations.

State Minister Agnimitra Paul announced the immediate transfer of land to the Border Security Force (BSF) to complete vital border fencing work. In a major welfare move, the state's subsidised food programme, "Maa Canteen," has been renamed "Maa Ahar."

The revamped five-rupee meal scheme will now feature eggs and fish two days a week.

Funded by the upcoming budget, 110 new centres will be added to the existing 390 facilities.

Prioritising worker safety, the Cabinet increased financial compensation for families of sewer workers who die on the job.

For the first time, a new compensation provision was introduced for workers suffering disabilities during sewerage work. Additionally, senior legal expert Surojit Nath Mitra will be appointed as the new Advocate General of West Bengal.

MURMU LAUNCHES MAJOR TRIBAL WELFARE INITIATIVE

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a national conclave aimed at strengthening tribal development agencies and projects across India.

During the event, she also virtually launched a nano science training facility in Bengaluru and 75 space laboratories within Eklavya Model Residential Schools.

Addressing the gathering, President Murmu described the participants as vital change agents. She emphasised that their core responsibility is delivering welfare and development programmes directly to the doorsteps of tribal villages. By working together with a shared vision, she noted, state and project officials can discover constructive solutions to transform the lives of tribal families.

The President reminded stakeholders that the true purpose behind every official project document is to support a human being.

She urged agencies to act with deep sensitivity, focusing closely on ensuring proper nutrition for pregnant mothers, quality education for children, and dignified livelihoods for tribal youth.

She praised current efforts that balance modern development while respecting and preserving rich tribal culture and traditional knowledge.

Highlighting education as the cornerstone of community progress, the President encouraged everyone to fully support skill development for tribal youth. She expressed satisfaction that nearly 500 Eklavya Model Residential Schools are now operational nationwide.

Looking ahead, President Murmu stated that the holistic development of tribal communities is essential for achieving a developed India by 2047. She expressed confidence that the roadmap created at this conclave will translate into impactful, grassroots action.

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ದೂರವಾಣಿ:–27931221, ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 27931759
Email:-itstaff_ulb_hosakote@yahoo.com Website: www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in
ನಂ: ನಸಹೊ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್/06/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.06.2026
" ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ" (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಅನುದಾನ, ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ CCA ಅನುದಾನ ಹಾಗೂ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ 01 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಏಕಲಕೋಟಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
01	DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT59237	9.32
02	DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT59247	10.20
03	DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT59248	10.00

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **17.06.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 19.06.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ.

ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕಸಬಾ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲೂಕು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ. Email: itstaff_ulb_bashettihalli1@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬಾ.ಪ.ಪಂ/ತಾ.ಶಾ.ಸಿ.ಆರ್/03/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.06.2026
ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	DMA/2024-25/IND2073/CALL-2	7.03	20,750/–
2	DMA/2025-26/IND5445/CALL-2	60.15	1,42,000/–

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ–ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಂತೆ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ– 03 ತಿಂಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ). **1.** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.06.2026 ರ 17.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2.** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.06.2026 ರ 17.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾರಣಾಂತರಗಳಿಂದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಾದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಪ್ರೇಮ್‌ಕುಮಾರ್
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ,
ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ.ಜಿ. ಅಮರನಾಥ
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ,
ಬಾಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/ಎಎಎ/958/2026–27

PANCHAYATHRAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
Bangalore South District Panchayath,
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Ramanagara, Bangalore South District.

Short Term Tender Notification No.: 03/EE/PRED/RMG/JE/247-254/2026-27 Date : 02-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through E-procurement System)

The Executive Engineer, Panchayathraj Engineering Division, Bangalore South District Ramanagara, invites the Itemwise Tender. Contractors registered in **KPWD**, Enrolled in **PRED / PWD** for the Works in **Kanakapura Taluk** under Deferent Head of Account. **Upanagara Vartula Rasthe and Kanakapura Yojana Pradikara, Indent No. : 1) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22104/Call-2, 2) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 22106/Call-2, 3) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22109/ Call-2, 4) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22108/Call-2, 5) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT20882/Call-2.**

1) Tender Minimum Amount Rs. 100.00 Lakhs. Tender Maximum Amount Rs. 200.00 Lakhs. 2) Tender Last Date for Submission of Tender Dated : 10-06-2026 by 4.00 p.m. 3) Opening of the Technical Tender Dated : 11-06-2026 at 4.30 p.m., 4) Opening of the Financial Tender Dated : 18-06-2026 at 4.30 p.m. on wards.

For details & further information visit the **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or Contact this Office in Office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P. R. E. Division, Ramanagara,
Bangalore South District.

DIPR/Ramanagar/77/Manipal/2026-27

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

QUICK READ

India mourns death of former Yemeni president

NEW DELHI

India formally offered its deep condolences following the sad passing of former Yemeni President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. Ministry of External Affairs official Sripriya Ranganathan visited the official Yemen Embassy located in New Delhi to sign the official condolence book. The government fondly remembered the late leader as a true friend of India who worked hard to strengthen bilateral ties. Hadi, who governed Yemen from 2012 until 2022 during a prolonged period of intense civil conflict, passed away recently in Riyadh at eighty. India extends sincere sympathies to his grieving family and all citizens of Yemen.

Manipur security forces seize massive arms cache

IMPHAL

In a major breakthrough, vigilant state security forces launched coordinated anti-terror operations across Manipur, recovering a massive hidden cache of weapons and capturing two active insurgent cadres. The extensive joint search operation in Thoubal district successfully yielded lethal military equipment, including an automatic AK rifle, multiple shotguns, heavy hand grenades, several live ammunition rounds, and tactical radio communication sets from the Pechi Chinglak foothills. Separate targeted raids conducted in Imphal East and West districts swiftly led to the successful apprehension of two dangerous outlaws belonging to banned local militant outfits. Strict legal action is now officially underway.

3 arrested following Patna coaching centre firing

PATNA

Patna police arrested three suspects today, including a rival coaching institute director, following a violent shooting outside popular educator Khan Sir's coaching center last night. The sudden gunfire left an innocent security guard injured and sparked immense community panic. Hundreds of frightened students gathered outside the premises early this morning, chanting loud slogans to demand.

Naidu unveils major 14-day yoga campaign

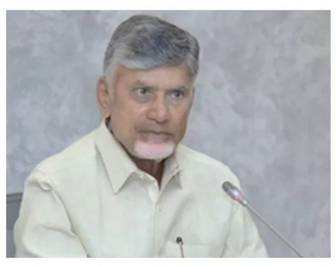
Describing yoga as 'best medicine' for stress and anxiety, the CM said his govt aims to turn the ancient practice into a daily household routine.

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched "Yogandhra-2026," a massive 14-day statewide yoga campaign.

Describing yoga as the "best medicine" for modern stress and anxiety, Naidu stated that the government aims to turn the ancient practice into a daily household routine and a public health movement under the Swarna Andhra Vision-2047.

Aligning with this year's International Day of Yoga theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing," the state has set an ambitious goal to mobilize one crore participants. The campaign will run from June 7 to June 20 across all districts, featuring a massive flagship demonstration of 25,000 people on the Krishna River West Bypass Bridge in Amaravati.



Each district will host themed events for 2,000 to 3,000 people, including targeted sessions for police personnel in NTR district and farmers in Konaseema. To boost yoga tourism, events will be organized at 56 spiritual and tourist landmarks, including the Undavalli Caves and Srisailam.

The government has allocated ₹10 crore for the initiative and declared June as "Yoga Month."

The state aims to certify 10 lakh practitioners and train 2.5 lakh instructors via the AP Yoga Prachar Parishad and digital platforms.

Additionally, yoga will be integrated into educational curricula. Partnering with major spiritual organizations, the government has launched a dedicated portal and free digital training videos. Naidu recalled that last year's drive registered 2.44 crore people and earned two Guinness World Records, promising to continue that momentum for a healthier state.

Dhami launches ₹29 cr projects in Rishikesh

RISHIKESH

Reaffirming Uttarakhand's commitment to modernising urban infrastructure, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated and laid foundation stones for three developmental projects worth ₹29.78 crore.

The announcements were made during the 117th Executive Committee Meeting of the All India Council of Mayors held in Rishikesh.

The new projects feature a ₹23.15 crore compost plant and sanitary landfill site at Lal Pani Beat, alongside fresh foundation stones for municipal rainwater harvesting systems and electric vehicle charging stations. Addressing the council, Chief Minister Dhami emphasized that mayors act as the true custodians of public trust, shaping future opportunities since the dreams of modern India take form in its cities.

The Uttarakhand CM launched three urban projects worth ₹29.78 crore in Rishikesh, highlighting infrastructure development and booming state tourism

Dhami credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for establishing a nationwide culture of urban development. He highlighted how central initiatives like the Swachh Bharat Mission, Smart Cities Mission, and PM SVANidhi have effectively transformed urban cleanliness, modern planning, and grassroots economic empowerment.

The Chief Minister also connected strong municipal management to the state's booming spiritual tourism. He revealed that over 3 million devotees completed the Char Dham Yatra in just the first 45 days this year.

CBSE online grading system hit by glitches

NEW DELHI

Evaluators who participated in the dry run of the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) Online Screening Mechanism (OSM) have accused the board of rushing its digital evaluation system without proper testing.

They claim the January pilot project in Delhi was treated merely as a server capacity test rather than an assessment of real operational challenges.

These allegations surface amidst widespread complaints from both students and educators regarding system glitches, scrambled answer booklets, and poor scan quality during the nationwide evaluation of Class X and XII exams. Teachers revealed that during the initial dry run across five selected schools, sample sizes were small and scanned sheets appeared remarkably clear. However, the subsequent nationwide rollout suffered from severely blurred digital copies

Drama in Kerala assembly over employee transfers

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Opposition staged a dramatic walkout from the Keralam Assembly after Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan accused the newly formed government of completely disregarding long-standing procedures governing state employee transfers.

The political showdown began when Opposition MLA V Joy moved an adjournment motion under Rule 50, demanding an immediate discussion on the issue. Vijayan alleged that numerous government employees were being abruptly shuffled out.

AIADMK leader KP Munusamy dismissed claims that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay sought a meeting with Edappadi Palaniswami

AIADMK Munusamy denies meeting request from CM Vijay

CHENNAI

AIADMK Deputy General Secretary KP Munusamy categorically dismissed rumours that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay had sought an appointment with AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami.

According to reports, Munusamy refuted claims made by TVK leader CTR Nirmal Kumar that Vijay was denied a meeting with EPS.

"The allegation is completely false," Munusamy asserted, stating that neither Vijay nor any TVK leadership had ever approached their party chief.

Launching a sharp critique of the Chief Minister, Munusamy argued that Vijay's rapid political rise lacked traditional grassroots sacrifice and was instead driven by savvy social media curation, Instagram reels, and cinematic narratives that temporarily swayed young voters looking for change.

Munusamy advised Vijay to remember that he is now the head of the state government, not a film star.

He drew a sharp contrast between AIADMK's decades-long institutional legacy and TVK's digital footprint, pointing out that AIADMK has governed the state for over three decades and boasts structural permanence in remote villages, whereas TVK's presence remains largely confined to online spaces.

Yogi assigns 60 ministers as district in-charges

LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has issued a major administrative order assigning district in-charges to 60 state ministers.

This strategic move aims to strengthen governance at the grassroots level and fast-track the implementation of various welfare and development schemes across the state.

Notably, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and both Deputy Chief Ministers - Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, have not been assigned any individual districts.

Under this new administrative framework, the top leadership will instead focus on comprehensive statewide monitoring and coordinated supervision of overall development work.

Under the fresh allocations, Women Welfare Minister Baby Rani Maurya will oversee Etawah and Hathras to monitor ground-level welfare schemes.

Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary has been handed Aligarh and Firozabad, while Jaiveer Singh takes charge of Jhansi and Farrukhabad. Dharampal Singh will manage Ghaziabad and Rampur, and Nand Gopal Gupta "Nandi" has been allotted Mirzapur and Chitrakoot.

SAXENA LAUNCHES FIRST MODEL BORDER VILLAGE

LEH

In a major move to fortify frontier regions, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena laid the foundation stone for the territory's first Model Border Village at Chumur under the Centre's Vibrant Village Program. Perched at 16,700 feet along the Indo-China border, Chumur consists of 24 households primarily engaged in Pashmina rearing.

This project marks a shift in national border policy. Aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision that border settlements are India's "first villages" rather than its last, Chumur leads a first phase targeting 10 frontier locations.

The initiative focuses on four pillars - infrastructure, employment, all-weather functionality, and civilian-defence integration, turning Chumur into a climate-resilient tourism hub to check migration. Local families will receive south-facing passive solar houses designed to withstand peak winter temperatures of minus 35 degrees. Each unit includes an attached bathroom, a homestay room, a kitchen garden, and livestock sheds, scheduled for completion by September.

To boost the local economy on the Korzok-Hanle circuit, the project introduces a community-run café, handicraft promotion, and value-added Pashmina products. Furthermore, the Defence Institute of High-Altitude Research will help set up a large commercial greenhouse for year-round vegetable cultivation.

Ritabrata demands TMC opposition leader post

KOLKATA

The internal crisis within the Trinamool Congress (TMC) deepened as a rebel faction, led by expelled leaders Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha, openly challenged the party high command.

The group submitted a letter to Assembly Speaker Rathindranath Bose claiming the backing of 58 legislators to reject Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay, the leadership's chosen Leader of the Opposition (LoP).

The rebels' letter demands the LoP post for Ritabrata Banerjee and claims the Chief Whip position for Sandipan Saha. Additionally, Javed Ahmed Khan, Seuli Saha, and Sabina Yasmin have been proposed as Deputy LoPs. Interestingly, while defying the party's administrative decisions, the letter explicitly reaffirms Mamata Banerjee as their supreme leader.

Speaker Bose has accepted the document, and the formal approval process is currently underway.

With at least two signatories currently under party suspension, all eyes are on Mamata Banerjee's next move.

Crucially, the strength of 58 MLAs crosses the legal two-thirds threshold required under the anti-defection law.

This shields the faction from immediate disqualification, setting the stage for a formal split and raising the possibility of a Maharashtra-style political realignment in West Bengal.

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department. SIRASI Division(U.K),
Karnataka Telephone: 08384- 223164 Fax: 08384- 224100.
No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/ KRDCL/2026-27/00666 Date:27.05.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM) KW-4

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents.
(Total: 2 Work)
(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **03-06-2026 up to 16.00.00** (2.) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **04-06-2026 up to 16.00.00** (3.) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid : **05-06-2026 @ 16.30.00** (4.) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid : **06-06-2026 @ 16.00.00**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/174/26-27 dt. 01.06.2026

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562123
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸನೆ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ(ವಿ)/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ 25/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.06.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KV 1&2 ರ &KG ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಅನುಧಾನದಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಶೇ. 24.10, ಶೇ. 7.25 ಹಾಗು ಶೇ. 5ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮರುಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ: 171.12** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಐಟಾಂವಾರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮುಂತಾದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂರ್ಪಕಿಸುವುದು.
ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ:–

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ವರ್ಗ
01	DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT59240	9.32	ಇತರೆ
02	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57598/CALL-2	49.95	ಇತರೆ
03	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57578/CALL-2	49.90	ಇತರೆ
04	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57597/CALL-2	49.95	ಇತರೆ
05	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT37584/CALL-5	5.00	ಇತರೆ
06	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT54115/CALL-3	7.00	ಇತರೆ

ಸಹಿ/–ಶ್ರೀ ಗಣೇಶ ಎನ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ

ಸಹಿ/– ಶ್ರೀ ಗಂಗಾಧರ ಹೆಚ್
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ

DIPR/CP/VCPL/960/2026-27

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Sri Malai Mahadeswara Swamy Kshethra Development Authority,
Mahadeswara Hills, HanurTaluk, Chamarajanagara District
Telephone No 08225-272128/Fax 272123 Email: sec.mmtemple@gmail.com
No.SMMKDA/LEASE/8/PR/12/2026-27 Date: 27-05-2026

PUBLICATION OF SHORT TERM E-TENDER CUM PUBLIC AUCTION

Sl No	Details	Lease period	Estimated Amount (Lakhs)	E. M. D Amount (Lakhs)
1)	Regarding acquisition of Mudi and Mudi contribution collection right obligation belonging to Sri Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshethra Development Authority through e- tender cum Public Auction for the period of one year with enhancement of 10 percent for the next one year at MM Hills Hanur tq, Chamarajanagar Dist	1 Year	300.00	3.00

The details can be downloaded through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ and for further details contact Mr. Mahadevaprabhu, mobile no: +91 9449131305 Information can be obtained from during office hours. In case of clarification contact Deputy Secretary's Sri Malai Mahadeswara Swamy, Kshethra Development Authority, MM Hills, Mobile no.: +91 9902593369.

The Tender schedule under KPPP Portal system is as follows

1)	E-Tender Documents Uploaded Date	29-05-2026 On wards
2)	Last Date & Time for Receipt of E-Tender	17-06-2026 Up to 4.00 PM
3)	Public Auction Date & time Place: Office of the Secretary SMMKDA, MM Hills, Hanur Tq	18-06-2026, 11.00 AM
4)	Date & Time of Opening E-Tender	18-06-2026 After 5.00 PM

NO: DIPR: CHANAGAR: 147: 2026-27

Secretary Sri Malai MahadeswaraSwamy Kshethra Development Authority, MM Hills,

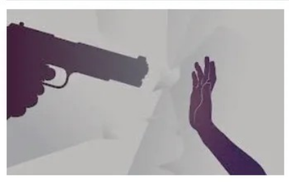
Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-2420810
IFT No. 05/2026-27 Dt.29.05.2026

ITEM WISE TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for 01 work approved under H/A: **5054-03-337-0-17-154-SH Improvements** & 08 works approved under **5054-04-337-0-01-154-MDR Improvements** with KW-4 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems. The **Minimum Amount Put to Tender is Rs.143.19 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs.2.15 Lakhs.** The **Maximum Amount Put to Tender is Rs.558.54 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs.8.38 Lakhs.** Pre bid Meeting will be held in the undersigned office **at 11.00 A.M on 06.06.2026.** Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 30.05.2026 to 15.06.2026** For **Sl.No: 01 to 07 from 01.06.2026 to 01.07.2026 for Sl.No:08 & 09 within 17.00 PM.** Period for completion will be 04 to 08 months (including monsoon) Only eligible KPWD Contractor Registered in the KPP-Portal shall participate. More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Work Department
Mysuru Division, Mysuru
DIPR/DDMYS/257/KSMCA/183/2026-27

QUICK READ



Indian national killed in Kuwait airport attack

DUBAI

An Indian citizen was tragically killed during a violent attack targeting Kuwait International Airport. The Embassy of India in Kuwait immediately issued an official statement, expressing deep condolences over the tragic loss of life. Diplomats confirmed they are now closely coordinating with Kuwaiti authorities to provide emergency assistance to the victim's grieving family and ensure support for others injured in the sudden assault. Security has been tightened as local investigators work to determine the motive behind the airport strike.

Graduate unemployment triples radically in Bangladesh

DHAKA

A new report reveals a severe jobs crisis in Bangladesh, where graduate unemployment has skyrocketed to over thirteen percent.

The overall youth jobless rate has also doubled, leaving nearly thirty percent of young citizens completely stranded without education, employment, or training. Experts blame this crisis on a "jobless economic growth" model rather than poor schooling.

Every year, over eight hundred thousand fresh job-seekers are left empty-handed as market demand falls short.

Analysts warn that traditional vocational training fails to fix the issue, urging deeper economic reforms to generate sustainable career opportunities for the younger generation.

Iran prepares massive funeral for late leader

After a 4-month delay, Iran has announced a historic 3-day state funeral in mid-June for former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

TEHRAN

Iran has announced plans for a major three-day state funeral for its former Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The long-serving leader was killed earlier this year during an escalating conflict involving the United States and Israel.

Tehran's Deputy Mayor, Mohammad Amin Tavakoli-Zadeh, shared the official details according to reports. He confirmed that massive public processions will take place across three key locations being, the capital city of Tehran, alongside the deeply religious hubs of Qom and Mashhad.

In Tehran alone, the main ceremonial events are expected to last for a full 24 hours. City officials are already rushing to make massive logistical arrangements. They expect an unprecedented crowd of up to 20 million citizens to pack the capital during the events.

This announcement arrives several months after the 86-year-old leader passed away. Traditional Islamic customs usually require quick burials within days of death. However, Iranian authorities deliberately chose to delay the final rites due to the massive challenges of managing such giant crowds. State media reports indicate that the historic ceremonies are now tentatively set for mid-June, though exact timings remain hidden from the public.

Khamenei's dramatic death ended his three-decade rule as the most powerful religious and political figure in Iran. At the time, his passing triggered highly mixed reactions nationwide, sparking both deep grief and public celebrations. Following his death, his son, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, was named as the new successor, though he has not yet made a public appearance.

America remains only global superpower: Rubio

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio declared America the sole global superpower, asserting military dominance while addressing tensions and nuclear negotiations with Iran.

WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has proudly declared that the United States remains the world's only true superpower, even as heavy tensions continue to rock West Asia.

Speaking at a Senate hearing, Rubio strongly defended the Trump administration's foreign policy. He boldly highlighted America's unmatched economic influence and military strength during a time when lawmakers are questioning Washington's security strategies. Rubio confidently stated that the United States possesses the most formidable military in human history, while the American dollar firmly remains the world's dominant reserve currency.

The top diplomat took a very sharp stance against Iran, calling Tehran's recent maritime actions entirely unlawful. He demanded that Iran immediately reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global shipping waterway. Furthermore, Rubio claimed that American military strikes had completely crushed Iran's naval capabilities. He mocked their remaining forces, stating that Iran no longer has a real navy, but rather a small collection of speedboats equipped with machine guns.

Turning to diplomatic efforts, Rubio revealed that Iran has finally agreed to negotiate certain aspects of its controversial nuclear programme. However, he warned lawmakers that these talks might not lead to an agreement that satisfies Congress. The Secretary of State acknowledged that negotiations are deeply complicated by ongoing chaos and uncertainty surrounding Iran's current leadership. Despite these complex hurdles, Rubio insisted that the absolute dominance of United States power remains entirely unchallenged on the global stage.

The US military disabled a commercial oil tanker heading toward Iran to enforce its strict naval blockade.

CENTCOM attacks tanker defying Iran blockade

FLORIDA

The United States military has disabled a commercial oil tanker heading toward Iran, strictly enforcing its heavy naval blockade.

The Botswana-flagged vessel, named M/T Lexie, was targeted by US Central Command (CENTCOM) after it ignored repeated warnings for 24 hours to change its course toward Kharg Island.

An American military aircraft eventually fired a Hellfire missile into the empty ship's engine room to halt it.

Meanwhile, a separate maritime crisis unfolded as the commercial vessel Sarishka V was hit by two projectiles at a port near Iraq.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed responsibility, falsely calling it an American ship. However, the Swiss-based Mediterranean Shipping Company strongly rejected this claim, maintaining its total neutrality.

These high-seas confrontations come as deadly ground fighting continues between Israel and Hezbollah.

Despite the ongoing violence, Lebanese and Israeli representatives just finished their first day of direct peace talks in Washington. While US President Donald Trump announced he had brokered a framework to halt the violence, a formal agreement remains elusive.

Testifying before a Senate committee, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio blamed Hezbollah for the political deadlock, stating that Israel and Lebanon could easily reach a peace deal without them. Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam called these talks the best option for his country, despite fierce pushback from Hezbollah.

The urgent need for a diplomatic breakthrough is clear, as health officials report that Israeli bombardments have tragically killed over 3,400 people in Lebanon since March.

US proposes new tariffs on 60 nations

WASHINGTON

The United States has announced a major trade proposal to slap fresh tariffs on 60 global economies, including India.

Washington claims these penalties are necessary after investigations revealed that these nations are importing or exporting goods manufactured using forced labor.

The US Office of the Trade Representative (USTR) explained that the new measures are being introduced under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. Under this proposal, nations that already have partial rules against forced labor will face a 10 percent tariff. Meanwhile, 54 countries including India, China, Japan, Australia, and the United Kingdom, could be hit with a heavier 12.5 percent duty for failing to effectively ban these products. To help cushion the economic blow, the US has proposed a special textile mechanism to allow a limited volume of clothing imports at lower rates.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer strongly defended the decision, stating that the global failure to eliminate forced labor creates an unfair playing field for American workers. He emphasized that the US will no longer tolerate this trade imbalance.

The sudden announcement comes at a highly sensitive time for New Delhi. A visiting American trade team is currently in India to finalize a Bilateral Trade Agreement. Indian negotiators, led by Additional Secretary Darpan Jain, are working hard to secure preferential market access. Sources indicate that securing relief from these aggressive American tariff investigations will now be at the absolute top of India's agenda during these high-stakes diplomatic talks.

China's secret nuke expansion raises global alarms

HONG KONG

China's rapid and secretive expansion of its nuclear missile arsenal is sparking deep security fears worldwide. According to reports it has been warned that the Asia-Pacific region is entering a dangerous new nuclear arms race, with Beijing at the very center of the escalation.A recent report predicts China's nuclear warhead stockpile will skyrocket past 1,000 by 2030, marking a staggering fivefold increase since 2020. Alarmingly, new satellite imagery has exposed two massive, mysterious military sites in the remote Xinjiang region. Built over the past six years, these sprawling facilities feature unique octagonal structures, fortified bunkers, and electronic warfare infrastructure. Experts believe these sites are directly linked to command, control, and maintenance operations for China's expanding intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) silos nearby.

To protect its strategic assets from potential American strikes, Beijing is building an unprecedented early-warning counterstrike network.

Decade-Long Medical Pathway Produces Ninety Doctors Across Nations

AJMAN

Dr. Thumbay Moideen - Founder President Thumbay Group with the Graduates

Thumbay International Pathway – Poland celebrated a major milestone as it completed ten years of helping students pursue medical education through a unique partnership between Gulf Medical University (GMU), Ajman, and the Medical University of Lublin (MUL), Poland. The latest convocation ceremony honoured students who completed the program and highlighted the achievement of producing 90 doctors since its launch.

The pathway allows students to begin their medical education in Ajman and complete their studies in Poland. Students spend three years studying pre-clinical sciences at GMU before moving to Lublin for three years of clinical training. After completing the course, they receive an MD degree from the Medical University of Lublin, which is recognised across the European Union.

The program was launched in 2017 as an Associate Degree in Preclinical Sciences. In 2022, it was upgraded to a Higher Diploma in Preclinical Sciences following renewed accreditation. An articulation agreement between the institutions ensures a smooth transfer process for students.

Since its inception, students from 62 nationalities have joined the pathway. The first batch graduated in 2023, and graduate numbers have increased steadily each year. Currently, students from more than 45 nationalities are enrolled in the pre-clinical phase at GMU.

GMU Chancellor Prof. Manda Venkataramana said the program provides a direct route from Ajman to a European medical degree. MUL Rector Prof. Wojciech Zaluska praised the strong preparation of students arriving from GMU.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Thumbay Moideen, Founder President of Thumbay Group, whose vision helped establish the international medical education pathway and expand opportunities for aspiring doctors worldwide.

Ex-President, military officers face Sri Lanka travel ban

COLOMBO

A Sri Lankan court has imposed an overseas travel ban on former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa and two retired military officers. This sudden restriction is tied directly to the ongoing, high-profile investigation into the devastating 2019 Easter Sunday suicide bombings.

The Colombo Fort Magistrate's Court issued the urgent travel freeze following a formal request from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The investigative agency is currently re-examining the coordinated suicide blasts that tore through multiple churches and luxury hotels across the island nation on April 21, 2019.

The horrific tragedy resulted in the deaths of 270 innocent people, including 11 Indian nationals, and triggered years of political turmoil.

Along with the former president, the new international travel restrictions explicitly apply to Army Colonel Mohamed Ansar and former intelligence officer Premananda Udalagama, who is also known locally as Silva.

Security agencies requested the freeze to prevent the high-ranking figures from leaving the country while crucial aspects of the counter-terrorism probe are finalized.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who served as a powerful defense official during Sri Lanka's civil war, later won the presidency in late 2019 by campaigning heavily on a platform of national security following the tragic bombings. However, he was forced to resign from office in 2022 after massive public protests over a severe economic crisis.

This latest judicial order marks a significant legal escalation, signaling that local authorities are tightening the net around top political and military leaders regarding security failures.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NARESH KUMAR S/o KARTA RAMJI, R/o 40, 4th Cross, Pukharaj Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Adugodi, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560030, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NAVA RAM.

PUBLIC NOTICE / WARNING

It is hereby informed to the general public that my client Sri. A.S.SUDHEENDRA, M/S SUMAYA PROPERTIES MYSURU, had issued a Blank Cheques bearing No's. 628241,495602,495605 drawn on IDBI Bank and Cheque no.982653 drawn on BOB Bank and Cheque No.000148 drawn on HDFC Bank, in favour of Sri. J.P.Vijay Kumar S/o J. Partha Sarathy (AADHAAR NO: 4193 2733 2803), which was duly issued in connection with a transaction which is completed and the said cheque has not been returned.

It has come to my client's knowledge that there are misleading statements/claims suggesting misuse of the said cheque. I hereby clarify that the said cheque was issued only towards a genuine transaction which has already been completed, and therefore there is no question of misuse.

Any person dealing or relying upon any contrary claims shall be doing so at their own risk and responsibility. The issuer of the cheque shall not be liable for any loss or consequence arising there from.

This public warning is issued to prevent any misuse, misrepresentation or confusion in respect of the above-mentioned cheque.

RAVI S. PATEL
ADVOCATE, MYSURU.
9880010007
26-05-2026

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MAHESH DUSANE alias MAHESH B DUSANE S/o Bhikaji Pandurang Dusane, R/o # 96/1, Rainbow Drive, Sarjapur Road, Near Wipro Corporate Office, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560035, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MAHESH BHIKAJI DUSANE.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SANTOSH RANJAN GHOSH S/o SAMARENDRA GHOSH, R/o 103, 1st Floor, Kairos Homes, Central Jail Road, Vallyamma Layout, Harlur, Kaikondahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560035, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANTOSH GHOSH.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Astha D/o A K Malhotra W/o Ishu Bhatia R/o Flat Indigo 301, HM World City Apartment, Gottigere Kengeri Road, Near Vinayaka Theater, J.P. Nagar 9th Phase, Anjanapura , Bengaluru, Karnataka, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Astha Bhatia.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.148/2026
Petitioners: Sri.Ravikumar.B.Y S/o Late Yallappa Aged about 33 years, R/at Baradi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others.
V/s
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the paternal Grandmother of petitioner No.1, 3 & 4 and paternal mother of petitioner No.2 by name LATE JAYAMMA W/O LATE MUDALAIAH who died on 10.04.2004 at Purushanahalli Village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 03-07-26 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 02.06.2026.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministrial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate, **K.N.Sathish Kumar,** Opp to Court Complex-4th Ward, Rojipura Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.150/2026
Petitioners: Sri.Ravikumar.B.Y S/o Late Yallappa Aged about 33 years, R/at Baradi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others.
V/s
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the paternal Grandmother of petitioner No.1, 3 & 4 and paternal mother of petitioner No.2 by name LATE HUCHAYALLAMMA W/o LATE HUCHAYALLAIAH who died on 06.03.1972 at Purushanahalli Village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 03-07-26 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 02.06.2026.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministrial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate, **K.N.Sathish Kumar,** Opp to Court Complex-4th Ward, Rojipura Doddaballapur Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.147/2026
Petitioners: Sri.Ravikumar.B.Y S/o Late Yallappa Aged about 33 years, R/at Baradi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others.
V/s
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the paternal Grandfather of petitioner No.1, 3 & 4 and paternal father of petitioner No.2 by name LATE HUCHAYALLAIAH S/O LATE VENKATABASAPPA who died on 08.06.1964 at Purushanahalli Village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 03-07-26 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 02.06.2026.
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Chief Ministrial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
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IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.149/2026
Petitioners: Sri.Ravikumar.B.Y S/o Late Yallappa Aged about 33 years, R/at Baradi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others.
V/s
Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the paternal Grandfather of petitioner No.1, 3 & 4 and paternal father of petitioner No.2 by name LATE MUDALAIAH S/o LATE VENKATABASAPPA who died on 10.04.1998 at Purushanahalli Village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 03-07-26 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 02.06.2026.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministrial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate, **K.N.Sathish Kumar,** Opp to Court Complex-4th Ward, Rojipura Doddaballapur Town.

Iran to play final WC warm-up behind closed doors in Turkey

Team Melli finalise preparations amid challenges before World Cup campaign

ANTALYA

Iran will play their final warm-up match ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 behind closed doors when they face Mali in Turkey on June 4, as head coach Amir Ghalenoei looks to fine-tune his squad before the tournament begins.

The Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) confirmed that the friendly in Antalya will be conducted without spectators or media access. Officials said the decision was made to support the tactical objectives of the coaching staff as Team Melli complete their preparations for the global showpiece.

Iran, one of the earliest nations to secure qualification for the expanded 48-team World Cup, have endured a challenging build-up to the tournament amid geopolitical tensions and travel-related complications. Their participation had briefly come under scrutiny following military tensions involving Iran, the United States and Israel earlier this year.

Despite the uncertainty, the squad has continued preparations through training camps in Antalya. Iran have already played three friendly matches during their stay in Turkey, suffering a defeat to Nigeria while recording victories over Costa Rica and Gambia.

The closed-door encounter against Mali is expected to provide Ghalenoei with a final opportunity to assess tactical combinations and player fitness before the team departs for Mexico on June 7.

Iran's World Cup preparations have also involved logistical adjustments. The FFIRI successfully negotiated with FIFA to relocate the team's tournament base from Tucson, Arizona, to Tijuana, Mexico. The move came amid concerns regarding travel arrangements and visa issues involving members of the Iranian delegation.

The situation gained additional attention after U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that while the Iranian football team would be allowed entry into the United States, authorities would closely examine any delegation members with alleged links to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Both the United States and Canada classify the IRGC as a terrorist organization.

Further complications arose when FFIRI president Mehdi Taj was reportedly denied entry to Canada for the FIFA Congress due to his alleged connections to the military force. Despite the off-field challenges, Iran remain focused on their World Cup ambitions. Team Melli will begin their campaign against New Zealand on June 15 in Los Angeles before facing Belgium on June 21.

Their final group-stage match will be against Egypt in Seattle on June 26.

With preparations entering their final phase, Iran hope to put external distractions aside and make a strong impression on football's biggest stage.

Portugal honour Diogo Jota as Neves inherits iconic No. 21 jersey

LISBON

Portugal's preparations for the FIFA World Cup took on an emotional tone this week as the national team unveiled its squad numbers, with midfielder Ruben Neves set to wear the iconic No. 21 jersey previously worn by his late friend and teammate Diogo Jota.

The gesture served as a touching tribute to Jota, who tragically lost his life in a road accident last year. His memory continues to resonate strongly within the Portuguese squad, and the decision to hand his jersey number to one of his closest friends in the team highlighted the lasting impact he had on his teammates.

During Portugal's training session on Tuesday, the announcement drew widespread attention, particularly after Neves had spoken about Jota's enduring presence within the squad during a press conference a day earlier. The midfielder said the forward's spirit remains an inspiration as Portugal prepares for another major international campaign.

Alongside Neves' assignment of the No. 21 shirt, Portugal also confirmed the jersey numbers for the rest of the squad. Matheus Nunes will wear No. 6, while Tomas Araujo has been assigned No. 4 and Nuno Mendes will sport No. 25. Goalkeeper Diogo Costa will continue with No. 1, while captain Cristiano Ronaldo retains his famous No. 7 jersey.

Other key players include Bruno Fernandes with No. 8, Goncalo Ramos with No. 9, Bernardo Silva with No. 10 and Joao Felix with No. 11.

The upcoming tournament will hold special significance for Ronaldo, who is

Emotional tribute marks Portugal's World Cup preparations and squad announcement

set to make his sixth FIFA World Cup appearance. Widely regarded as one of the greatest footballers in history, the 41-year-old remains in pursuit of the one major trophy missing from his remarkable collection. Having already won the UEFA European Championship and UEFA Nations League with Portugal, Ronaldo will be aiming to crown his international career with World Cup glory.

His confidence is expected to be high after helping Al Nassr secure the Saudi Pro League title with another prolific season.

Portugal will fine-tune their preparations with friendly matches against Chile on June 6 and Nigeria on June 10 before beginning their World Cup campaign against Congo on June 17. They will then face Uzbekistan on June 23 and Colombia on June 27 in their remaining group-stage fixtures. For Portugal, the tournament begins with both ambition and emotion, carrying the memory of Diogo Jota while chasing football's greatest prize.

Historic milestone sees Indian-origin footballers represent four nations globally

Indian roots shine as four players feature at FIFA WC

NEW DELHI

The FIFA World Cup 2026 will carry a distinct Indian flavour as four players with Indian roots are set to represent four different nations at football's biggest tournament, marking a historic first in World Cup history.

The expanded tournament, co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico, will feature a record 48 teams and 104 matches. Amid the global spectacle, the presence of four players of Indian origin highlights the growing influence of the Indian diaspora in international football.

The quartet comprises Tahsin Mohammed Jamshid of Qatar, Nishan Velupillay of Australia, Samuel Moutoussamy of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sarpreet Singh of New Zealand. Never before have four players with

Indian ancestry represented four separate nations at a single FIFA World Cup.

Their participation also marks a significant milestone for Indian football followers. The last player of Indian origin to feature at a World Cup was Vikash Dhorasoo, who represented France during the 2006 tournament in Germany.

Among the four, 19-year-old Tahsin Mohammed Jamshid is one of the most exciting prospects. A graduate of Qatar's renowned Aspire Academy, the midfielder earned selection in Qatar's final World Cup squad under coach Julen Lopetegui. Tahsin, who plays for Al Duhail in the Qatar Stars League, traces his roots to Kerala. His father Jamshid was a footballer at Calicut University, while his mother Shaima hails from Kannur.

Australia's Nishan Velupillay has also secured a place in the Socceroos squad. The Melbourne Victory winger comes from a multicultural background, with a father of Tamil heritage and a mother of Anglo-Indian descent.

Another player with Tamil roots is Samuel Moutoussamy, who represents the Democratic Republic of Congo. The experienced midfielder, currently playing for Atromitos in Greece, has been a regular member of the Congolese national team since making his debut in 2019.

Completing the quartet is Sarpreet Singh, one of New Zealand's most accomplished attacking midfielders. The 27-year-old's family originates from Jalandhar in Punjab, and he has represented the All Whites since 2018.

Afghan women footballers rebuild dreams after exile and years of struggle

WELLINGTON

The Afghan women's football team is writing a remarkable story of resilience and hope as players forced into exile following the Taliban's return to power in 2021 prepare to represent their country once again on the international stage.

After years of uncertainty, displacement and determination, members of the Afghan Women United programme are currently attending a training camp in Auckland, New Zealand, where they are preparing for matches against a team from the Cook Islands. For many of the players, the opportunity represents far more than football—it is a symbol of survival, identity and resistance.

When the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan, women's sports were effectively shut down. Female footballers who had proudly represented their nation suddenly found themselves facing an uncertain future. Many fled the country fearing persecution, leaving behind families, homes and dreams.

Among them was goalkeeper Fatima Yousufi, who arrived in Australia carrying little more than a backpack and the hope of continuing her football journey. Alongside teammates such as midfielder Mona Amini, she spent years training and competing while waiting for the chance to wear Afghanistan's colours again.

Their perseverance received a major boost in April when FIFA granted the Afghan women's team eligibility for international competition, despite the national football federation not officially recognising the squad.

Amini described the decision as the reward for years of hard work and dedication. The players had already experienced a glimpse of what was possible during the "Unite" tournament seven months ago, where they secured a victory over Libya and heard Afghanistan's national anthem played before an international fixture for the first time in years. For many players, that emotional moment reinforced their determination to keep fighting for recognition and representation.

Praggnanandhaa stuns Carlsen again to stay in Norway Chess title hunt

STAVANGER

Indian Grandmaster Praggnanandhaa continued his remarkable run at the Norway Chess tournament by defeating world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen for the second time in the same event, strengthening his challenge for the title with just a few rounds remaining.

The 20-year-old chess prodigy produced another outstanding performance with the black pieces in the eighth round at Deichman Bjørvika, outplaying the seven-time Norway Chess champion in a classical game. The victory earned Praggnanandhaa three valuable points and lifted him to third place in the standings with 12 points.

American Grandmaster Wesley So retained the lead with 14 points after overcoming Germany's Vincent Keymer in the Armageddon tiebreak following a drawn classical encounter. France's Alireza Firouzja occupies second place with 13 points after defeating reigning world champion D. Gukesh.

Praggnanandhaa's latest triumph over Carlsen further underlined his growing reputation as one of the most formidable young players in world chess. Having already defeated the Norwegian star earlier in the tournament, the Indian youngster completed a memorable double against one of the greatest players in history.

Speaking after the victory, Praggnanandhaa stressed the importance of the result in the context of the tournament rather than the stature of his opponent.

He said that while defeating Carlsen was special, any win at this stage of the competition was crucial in the race for the title. The composed response reflected the maturity that has become a hallmark of his rise through the international chess ranks.

The result also placed Praggnanandhaa in an exclusive group of players who have beaten Carlsen three times in classical chess. It marks another milestone in a career that continues to gather momentum with every major tournament.

Norwegian fans dream big as Haaland leads World Cup return

OSLO

Excitement is building across Norway as the nation prepares for its long-awaited return to the FIFA World Cup, with supporters placing their faith in star striker Erling Haaland and a talented generation of players capable of making a deep run in the tournament. Norway have qualified for football's biggest event for the first time in 28 years, ending a lengthy absence from the global stage. The achievement has reignited enthusiasm among fans, who are eager to see the Scandinavian nation compete against the world's best in the tournament to be co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The mood in Oslo reflects a growing sense of optimism. Supporters are hopeful that a squad featuring world-class talent can deliver performances worthy of the country's rich footballing history. Much of that expectation naturally centres on Erling Haaland, whose goalscoring exploits for Manchester City have established him as one of the most feared forwards in world football.

The 25-year-old striker will carry the hopes of a nation as Norway seek to make a lasting impression. Fans believe his ability to score in crucial moments could be the difference between a respectable campaign and a historic one.

Norway provided another reason for confidence with a 3-1 victory over Sweden in a recent warm-up match at Ullevaal Stadion in Oslo. Although Haaland watched from the stands, the performance demonstrated the team's growing strength and depth ahead of the tournament.

Football fever is gradually spreading across the capital. Sports bars are preparing for large crowds, while supporters are already discussing Norway's prospects and potential knockout-stage ambitions. Among the optimists is Kjell Madland, founder and chief executive of Norway Chess, who believes the team can successfully navigate the group stage. He described qualification itself as a major achievement and suggested that anything beyond the opening round would be an added bonus.

Padukone urges shuttlers to prioritise titles over world rankings

BENGALURU

Indian badminton legend Prakash Padukone believes the country's leading shuttlers should focus more on winning major tournaments rather than obsessing over world rankings, stressing that titles ultimately define a player's legacy.

Speaking in Bengaluru during the announcement of a partnership between the Padukone School of Badminton (PSB) and Shriram Finance Ltd, the former world No. 1 said Indian badminton has made significant progress over the past two decades but still possesses the potential to achieve far greater success on the international stage.

Padukone, the first Indian to win the prestigious All England Championships in 1980, praised the current generation of players but challenged them to deliver greater consistency. He pointed out

that modern athletes enjoy unprecedented levels of support, including access to specialised coaches, physiotherapists, nutritionists, fitness experts and sparring partners.

According to the 70-year-old, such resources should translate into more regular success at major tournaments rather than occasional victories spread across long periods.

The Padma Shri awardee also highlighted the challenges posed by the demanding Badminton World Federation calendar, which encourages players to chase ranking points throughout the season. While acknowledging the importance of rankings, Padukone argued that they should be a by-product of winning prestigious events rather than the primary objective.

He maintained that players are remembered for their triumphs in major tournaments rather than the number of weeks spent at the top of the rankings. In his view, quality performances at elite competitions carry greater significance than accumulating points through frequent participation.

Padukone also shared his thoughts on the Badminton World Federation's proposed shift from the current best-of-three games to 21 points format to a 15-point system from January 2027. While open to experimentation, he favoured retaining the existing scoring structure alongside the new format.

QUICK READ

SBI funds management targets market debut in 2027

New Delhi

State Bank of India (SBI) expects to list its asset management subsidiary, SBI Funds Management Ltd (SBIFML), in 2027, according to SBI Chairman C.S. Setty. The company has already submitted draft IPO papers to market regulator SEBI. The proposed issue will be entirely an offer-for-sale, with existing shareholders planning to sell up to 20.37 crore shares, representing around 10 percent of the company. The IPO could raise nearly Rs 13,000 crore, making it one of the largest asset management listings in India. SBI and partner Amundi Asset Management will dilute stakes. Setty also expressed confidence in India's long-term growth despite global economic uncertainties.

India-origin music app Guitar Wiz wins Apple's 2026 Inclusivity Award

New Delhi

Apple has honored Guitar Wiz, an India-origin music app, with the Inclusivity Award at the 2026 Apple Design Awards. Developed by Indian creator Bijoy Thangaraj, the app offers spoken guidance on guitar tuning, chords, pitch, and finger placement, making learning easier for users of different skill levels. Apple recognized Guitar Wiz for delivering an accessible experience that supports diverse abilities, languages, and backgrounds. The app incorporates accessibility features such as Dynamic Type, Increased Contrast, and Differentiate Without Color. Apple said these tools help users navigate independently and effectively. The recognition highlights the growing global success of India-linked apps across Apple's ecosystem and developer community.

India, Germany strengthen ties in quantum technologies

India and Germany have agreed to expand cooperation in quantum communications, photonics, space technologies and research innovation

NEW DELHI

India and Germany have agreed to deepen cooperation in quantum communications, photonics, secure networking and commercial space technologies, marking a new phase in their strategic technology partnership during the visit of Mario Voigt to New Delhi.

The discussions, held with Jitendra Singh, brought together senior officials from the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Space and leading research institutions to expand collaboration in emerging technologies.

According to reports, the dialogue signals a shift in the long-standing India-Germany scientific relationship towards a more operational partnership focused on deep-tech sectors, including quantum communications, advanced manufacturing, aerospace

technologies and secure digital infrastructure.

A key area of focus was cooperation in quantum communication and photonics infrastructure. Both countries agreed to strengthen collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organization and the German Aerospace Center on quantum satellite communication systems and secure networking technologies.

The two sides also discussed closer integration with Euro QGS, an initiative aimed at standardising and interconnecting optical ground station infrastructure across regions. Officials said interoperable communication systems will be crucial for future secure space and quantum communication networks.

The partnership is expected to combine Thuringia's strengths in precision optics, lasers and photonics manufacturing with India's flagship programmes, including the National Quantum Mission, India AI Mission and the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

Beyond research, both nations explored opportunities to boost technology commercialization and talent mobility. Through frameworks such as the Anusandhan National Research Foundation and the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre, discussions focused on industry-linked research partnerships and startup collaborations to translate laboratory innovations into market-ready technologies.

Germany also proposed expanding doctoral exchanges, dual-degree programmes and university partnerships to create a strong pipeline of researchers in quantum science, aerospace engineering, photonics and related advanced technology fields.

Indian IT giants cross 3 lakh copilot users

NEW DELHI

India's leading IT services companies — Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys and Wipro — have collectively deployed more than 300,000 licenses of Microsoft 365 Copilot within six months, highlighting one of the world's largest enterprise artificial intelligence rollouts, according to Microsoft.

The technology giant said each company has expanded Copilot deployment beyond 100,000 employees, doubling from approximately 50,000-seat deployments announced in December 2025. The expansion underscores a growing trend of integrating AI into business-critical operations, engineering, productivity and service delivery functions.

According to Microsoft, the rapid adoption demonstrates how enterprises are increasingly embedding AI agents into everyday workflows. The development also places India among Asia's fastest-growing markets for enterprise AI adoption, with domestic technology firms leading large-scale implementation efforts.

Judson Althoff, Commercial Business CEO at Microsoft, said AI's impact is extending beyond productivity improvements and is increasingly influencing how organisations operate, compete and expand. Globally, Microsoft 365 Copilot has reached around 20 million paid seats, with quarterly additions growing by more than 250 per cent.

At Infosys, more than 100,000 employees now use Copilot, with monthly active usage exceeding 91 per cent as AI becomes integrated across engineering, delivery and corporate functions. TCS reported that over 100,000 associates have been enabled with Copilot, with approximately 86 per cent actively using the platform. The company noted productivity gains of 20–25 per cent in research and content creation, along with faster insight generation.

Wipro has achieved more than 95 per cent monthly active usage, with employees generating nearly 7.5 million prompts every month. The company said AI-driven automation is saving over 250,000 full-time equivalent workdays each quarter.

OECD sees India growing above 6% despite global challenges

NEW DELHI

OECD projects India will remain a top growth economy with over 6% expansion in FY27–FY28 despite global shocks, inflation pressures and energy price volatility

- India growth above six percent
- Global shocks weigh on outlook
- Inflation pressures remain key concern
- RBI policy may tighten briefly
- Fiscal support expected to continue

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has projected India's economy to grow by 6.3 per cent in FY27 and 6.4 per cent in FY28, despite increasing global uncertainties stemming from the West Asia conflict and rising inflationary pressures.

In its latest outlook, the OECD said the conflict in the Middle East has become a major factor influencing the global economy, leading to higher energy, agricultural and industrial input costs. These developments have weakened growth prospects worldwide while pushing inflation higher.

The report noted that India remains one of the fastest-growing major economies, supported by strong domestic demand and easing financial conditions. The Reserve Bank of India reduced its policy rate from 6.5 per cent in January 2025 to 5.25 per cent in February 2026, helping lower borrowing costs and support economic activity. Non-food bank credit expanded by 15.9 per cent year-on-year in March, indicating healthy lending momentum.

However, the OECD warned that inflationary pressures have begun to re-emerge, largely due to rising food prices as favourable base effects fade. To keep inflation within the RBI's 4 per cent target band, the organisation expects a temporary 25-basis-point increase in policy rates by the end of the first quarter of FY27. Monetary policy is projected to ease again in FY28 as inflation moderates.

The report also highlighted that fiscal policy is likely to become more expansionary in FY27 to cushion the impact of elevated energy prices. While the Union Budget targeted a reduction in the fiscal deficit from 4.4 per cent of GDP in FY26 to 4.3 per cent in FY27, support measures aimed at limiting the energy-price shock could widen the deficit by around 0.4 percentage points.

According to the OECD, these measures will support household incomes and consumption in the near term but may slow the pace of public debt reduction. Public debt is projected to reach 54.7 per cent of GDP by FY28, with fiscal consolidation expected to resume as energy prices stabilise and temporary support measures are withdrawn.

Rising fuel and raw-material costs are expected to slow commercial vehicle industry growth despite strong long-term demand drivers

Commercial vehicle industry volumes to moderate amid cost pressures

NEW DELHI

India's commercial vehicle (CV) industry is expected to witness moderated growth in the short-to-medium term as elevated fuel prices and rising raw-material costs continue to weigh on demand, according to a report by PL Capital. Despite these near-term challenges, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) remain optimistic about the sector's long-term prospects, supported by replacement demand, infrastructure development, and economic expansion.

The report highlighted that automobile dispatches in May 2026 recorded sustained volume growth across most vehicle categories, although certain segments showed signs of slowing momentum. Passenger vehicles emerged as the strongest performer, registering nearly 20 percent growth compared to the previous year. The two-wheeler segment also maintained stable growth as manufacturers ex-

panded production capacity to meet strong consumer demand while addressing labour shortages and supply-chain disruptions.

Within the commercial vehicle segment, performance remained mixed. Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicles (MHCVs) experienced subdued growth, reflecting cautious fleet expansion and cost pressures. In contrast, Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) continued to perform strongly, driven by growing demand from logistics, e-commerce, and last-mile delivery operations.

The agricultural machinery sector also showed resilience. Tractor sales maintained a strong growth trajectory, supported by adequate reservoir levels and robust rural demand. However, industry observers remain watchful of monsoon progress and rising input costs, which could influence future demand patterns.

Meanwhile, India's electric vehicle market continued to gain momentum in May. Rising fuel prices encouraged consumers to shift toward battery-powered alternatives. EVs accounted for 6.4 percent of passenger vehicle sales during the month, compared with 4 percent in FY26. Electric two-wheelers also strengthened their market presence, representing 8.9 percent of total sales, up from around 6.5 percent last year.

Industry data from SIAM and FADA further indicated healthy growth across the broader automotive market. While the outlook remains positive, analysts expect growth rates to moderate as economic and cost-related challenges persist in the coming quarters.

Auto component margins seen easing on cost pressure

NEW DELHI

Profit margins of India's auto component manufacturers are expected to moderate to around 11 per cent in the near term as rising input costs and steady demand from original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) reshape industry dynamics, according to a report by CRISIL.

The rating agency noted that while demand from automakers remains stable across key segments, including passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles and two-wheelers, input cost pressures are limiting margin expansion for suppliers. Steel, aluminium and other raw material prices continue to remain elevated, impacting overall profitability.

CRISIL said the auto component sector has demonstrated resilience despite global supply chain disruptions and fluctuating commodity prices. However, it expects operating margins to settle closer to 11 per cent as companies absorb higher costs while maintaining competitive pricing to retain OEM relationships.

The report highlighted that OEM demand remains a key stabilising factor for the sector. Strong vehicle production levels in India, supported by steady domestic consumption and export opportunities, are helping maintain revenue visibility for component manufacturers. However, the bargaining power of large OEMs continues to constrain the ability of suppliers to fully pass on increased input costs.

The industry is also witnessing gradual investments in electrification-related components as automakers accelerate their transition toward electric vehicles. This shift is expected to create new revenue streams over the medium to long term, although near-term profitability may remain under pressure due to higher R&D and capital expenditure requirements.

CRISIL added that companies with strong balance sheets, diversified client bases and efficient cost structures are better positioned to withstand margin pressures. Smaller players, however, may face more significant challenges in maintaining profitability if cost inflation persists.

Overall, the outlook for the auto component industry remains stable, but margins are expected to moderate as the sector balances steady OEM demand with persistent input cost headwinds and ongoing technological transitions.

RBI says gold holdings stable at 880.52 tonnes

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has clarified that its physical gold holdings remain unchanged at 880.52 tonnes as on date, dismissing reports of any sale of gold reserves. The clarification follows media speculation that the central bank had sold part of its gold to manage foreign exchange pressures. The Press Information Bureau (PIB) also termed such claims "fake" and reaffirmed that official data shows no change in the stock of gold. RBI reiterated that its reserve composition is regularly disclosed in its monthly bulletin and urged the public to rely only on official information. The central bank's gold holdings remain a key part of India's foreign exchange reserves.

'Public Wi-Fi key to expanding India's broadband reach'

NEW DELHI

The Broadband India Forum (BIF) on Wednesday welcomed the approach of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India in recognising public Wi-Fi as a complementary layer of broadband infrastructure, stressing its importance in delivering affordable and widespread internet access across the country.

Responding to TRAI's consultation paper on expanding public Wi-Fi networks, BIF cautioned that relying solely on mobile networks may not be sufficient to support India's growing digital needs. The forum highlighted that public Wi-Fi can improve affordability, strengthen indoor connectivity, enhance spectrum efficiency and reduce congestion on mobile networks through traffic offloading.

BIF urged TRAI to formulate a comprehensive national strategy focused on infrastructure development, ecosystem expansion, technology modernisation and greater consumer awareness. The forum recommended integrating the PM-WANI framework with BharatNet, state fibre networks, smart city projects and public digital assets to accelerate hotspot deployment nationwide.

The think tank also called for a nationwide awareness campaign to educate consumers, businesses and local entrepreneurs about the affordability, safety and benefits of public Wi-Fi services. It proposed strengthening PM-WANI through scalable ecosystem partners capable of aggregating fragmented hotspots into trusted and interoperable digital platforms.

TV Ramachandran, President of BIF, described public Wi-Fi as a strategic digital public infrastructure capable of bridging the digital divide. He emphasised that PM-WANI, which opened India's public Wi-Fi ecosystem after years of regulatory restrictions, should be given a fair opportunity to achieve scale and sustainability. The forum further recommended developing open interoperability standards to enable seamless roaming, authentication and network discovery, making Wi-Fi access as convenient as mobile broadband.

DIGITAL AD REFORMS

UK regulator tightens rules on Google content control

LONDON

The United Kingdom's competition regulator has introduced new requirements aimed at giving publishers greater control over how their content is used by large digital platforms, particularly Google. The move is part of a broader effort to rebalance power between tech giants and news publishers in the digital advertising and content ecosystem.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) said the updated framework seeks to ensure fairer commercial terms and improved transparency in how publishers' content is accessed, displayed and monetised by search engines and other online services. The regulator noted that publishers often rely heavily on platforms like Google for traffic and revenue, creating an imbalance in bargaining power.

Under the new requirements, publishers will have greater rights to control how their content appears in search results and how it is used for commercial purposes. The rules also aim to ensure clearer consent mechanisms and

better transparency around data usage and content licensing arrangements.

The CMA said the changes are designed to promote competition in the digital advertising market, which has become increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few major technology companies. Regulators in the UK and other jurisdictions have raised concerns that this concentration limits choice for publishers and reduces revenue opportunities for independent media organisations.

The decision follows years of scrutiny of big tech platforms over their role in the news ecosystem. Publishers have argued that while their content drives significant traffic to search engines and social media platforms, they do not receive a fair share of advertising revenues generated from that traffic.

Industry stakeholders believe the new framework could lead to more balanced negotiations between publishers and platforms. However, technology companies may need to adjust their content indexing and display practices to comply with the updated rules.

The regulator is expected to continue monitoring compliance and may introduce further measures if market imbalances persist, signalling an ongoing push to regulate the digital information economy more tightly.

India set for historic 12-match NZ tour in cricket spectacle

India's longest-ever NZ tour promises thrilling cricket across formats nationwide

WELLINGTON

India will embark on a landmark 12-match tour of New Zealand later this year, marking the most extensive international cricket tour by a visiting team in the country's history. The all-format series, scheduled from October 22 to late November, is being hailed as the biggest cricket tour hosted by New Zealand in a generation.

The tour will feature five Twenty20 Internationals, five One-Day Internationals, and two Test matches between India and New Zealand, providing fans with 42 days of high-quality international cricket. The series will begin with the opening T20 International at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on October 22 and conclude with the second Test match, also in Christchurch, starting on November 27.

New Zealand Cricket officials expect unprecedented interest in the series, given the immense popularity of the Indian team and the growing rivalry between the two cricketing nations. The tour is also expected to draw large crowds across eight host cities, making it one of the most significant sporting events on New Zealand's calendar this year.

New Zealand Cricket Marketing and Commercial Officer Glenn Critchley described the series as more than just a sporting contest. He said the tour would celebrate the strong cultural and historical ties shared by New Zealand and India, while highlighting the friendship and competitive spirit fostered through cricket.

Critchley also noted the excitement surrounding the anticipated participation of Indian stars such as Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah, whose presence is expected to generate tremendous fan interest and enthusiasm throughout the tour.

Following the India series, New Zealand will travel to Australia for a four-Test tour before returning home to host Sri Lanka in a multi-format series comprising three ODIs, three T20Is and two Test matches during January and February.

The India-New Zealand tour is expected to be one of the most closely watched bilateral series of the year, showcasing elite cricket across all three formats while strengthening the sporting bond between the two nations.

Mandhana urges India to learn from England loss

TAUNTON

India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana admitted that her team failed to build enough pressure with dot balls during their six-wicket defeat to England in the third Women's T20 International and stressed that the mistake cannot be repeated at the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

England completed a 2-1 series comeback after successfully chasing down India's competitive total of 180 for five in Taunton. The defeat served as a timely reminder for India as they prepare for the global tournament, which begins later this month.

India had made a dream start with the ball, reducing England to 35 for three. However, the hosts recovered brilliantly through a match-winning 137-run partnership between Alice Capsey, who scored 82, and Heather Knight, who remained unbeaten on 70.

Reflecting on the loss, Mandhana acknowledged that England's batters played quality cricket but felt India could have created greater pressure by restricting scoring opportunities.

"We definitely started extremely well with the ball. They played some really good cricketing shots, but in hindsight, we could have built pressure with more dot balls. We will review this game carefully and ensure we do not repeat these mistakes in the World Cup," Mandhana said after the match.

Despite the defeat, the left-handed opener found several positives from the series, particularly the return to form of captain Harmanpreet Kaur. The skipper played a captain's knock, scoring a fluent 56 off 40 balls to guide India past the 180-run mark.

Mandhana praised Harmanpreet's innings, describing it as a crucial contribution under pressure. She also expressed satisfaction with the overall batting form within the squad, noting that several key players are peaking at the right time ahead of the World Cup.

India will begin their Women's T20 World Cup campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan in Birmingham on June 14. However, Mandhana insisted the team's focus remains on the tournament as a whole rather than a single high-profile fixture.

She said the World Cup itself deserves greater attention, adding that fans are expected to turn out in large numbers and that India hopes to reward them with strong performances throughout the competition.

Sairaj Bahutule named India spin-bowling coach ahead of AFGHANISTAN TEST

FORMER INDIA ALL-ROUNDER RETURNS TO NATIONAL SETUP IN COACHING ROLE

MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed Sairaj Bahutule as the spin-bowling coach of the Indian men's cricket team ahead of the one-off Test against Afghanistan, scheduled to begin on June 6 in Mullanpur.

The appointment marks another significant chapter in Bahutule's long association with Indian cricket, both as a player and coach. The 53-year-old former all-rounder represented India in two Test matches and eight One-Day Internationals and enjoyed an outstanding domestic career spanning nearly two decades.

Announcing the appointment, the BCCI described Bahutule as a former India international and domestic stalwart who brings a wealth of experience to the role. The board highlighted his reputation for identifying, nurturing and developing spin-bowling talent across domestic and franchise cricket.

Bahutule's first-class record underlines his credentials. One of the most accomplished all-rounders on the Indian domestic circuit, he amassed 6,176 runs and claimed 630 wickets during a distinguished career. His consistency with both bat and ball made him a respected figure in Indian cricket.

Expressing his delight at the appointment, Bahutule said it was a tremendous honour to serve Indian cricket once again. He noted that representing the country as a player had been a matter of immense pride and that contributing in a coaching capacity was equally special. He added that he was eager to work with the players and help the team achieve excellence across formats.

Bahutule's coaching résumé is equally impressive. He has served as head coach of Vidarbha, Kerala, Gujarat and Bengal in domestic cricket and has worked as a spin-bowling coach with Indian Premier League franchises Rajasthan Royals and Punjab Kings.

His contributions to player development have also been noteworthy. Bahutule was part of the coaching staff of India's ICC Under-19 World Cup-winning team in 2022 and continued his involvement with the youth setup during the 2024 edition of the tournament. He has also worked extensively with India A and the senior national side on several assignments.

Having previously served at the BCCI's National Cricket Academy, now known as the Centre of Excellence, Bahutule now takes on a key role as India prepare for the Afghanistan Test and future international assignments.

BCCI vows full support for Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's rise to the top

AHMEDABAD

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has pledged its full support to teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, with Secretary Devajit Saikia promising to help the young star reach the highest level of the game following his extraordinary IPL 2026 season.

Saikia congratulated the champions on securing their second consecutive title and reserved special praise for the 15-year-old Rajasthan Royals batter, whose performances captivated cricket fans throughout the tournament.

Sooryavanshi emerged as the standout performer of the season, finishing as the tournament's highest run-scorer with a remarkable 776 runs. What made the achievement even more extraordinary was his explosive strike rate of 237.30, a figure rarely seen over the course of an entire IPL campaign.

The Bihar-born youngster also entered the record books as the youngest-ever Orange Cap winner at just 15 years and 65 days old. The previous record belonged to Gujarat Titans opener Sai Sudharsan, who claimed the honour at 23 years and 231 days in 2025.

Saikia described Sooryavanshi as one of Indian cricket's most exciting emerging talents and expressed confidence in his future.

"Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is a wonderful player coming up, and he has a bright future. The BCCI will do everything to help him reach the highest level of cricket," Saikia said.

The BCCI secretary also looked ahead to the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup, describing it as the next major challenge for Indian cricket. He expressed confidence in the Women in Blue, who have shown consistent progress in recent years and will be aiming for another successful campaign on the global stage.

Meanwhile, former Union Minister and BJP MP Anurag Thakur congratulated Royal Challengers Bengaluru on their title triumph, describing

the IPL as the biggest cricket league in the world and praising the BCCI for its continued success in organizing the tournament.

In the final, Gujarat Titans managed 155 for eight after being put in to bat, with Washington Sundar top-scoring with an unbeaten 50. Royal Challengers Bengaluru chased down the target comfortably, powered by an unbeaten 75 from Virat Kohli.

While RCB celebrated another championship, the season may ultimately be remembered as the tournament that introduced Indian cricket to a generational talent in Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

DHONI'S ADVICE HELPS AYUSH VARTAK SHINE IN T20 MUMBAI LEAGUE

MUMBAI

Emerging Mumbai batter Ayush Vartak continues to make a strong impression in the T20 Mumbai League, drawing inspiration from valuable advice received from former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni during a recent trial stint with Chennai Super Kings.

The 22-year-old showcased his talent at the Wankhede Stadium, smashing a brisk 39 off just 21 deliveries for North Mumbai Panthers against Triumph Knights Mumbai North East. His aggressive knock helped the Panthers post a formidable total of 209 for five before securing a convincing 21-run victory.

For Vartak, however, the innings was about more than just runs. It reflected lessons learned from some of the biggest names in Indian cricket. Earlier this year, he was invited by Chennai Super Kings for replacement trials during the Indian Premier League season, a week-long experience that proved invaluable for the young batter.

Among those he interacted with was former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, whose simple yet effective advice left a lasting impact.

"Wait for your chances and let the ball come to you," Dhoni told him after observing his batting during the trials.

Vartak believes those words played a key role in his latest success. By trusting his instincts and waiting for the right deliveries to attack, he was able to play with greater confidence and clarity.

The youngster's rise through Mumbai cricket has been impressive. Hailing from Vasai, away from the city's traditional cricketing centres, his journey took a decisive turn when veteran coach Dinesh Lad spotted him at an Under-12 camp. Lad, renowned for mentoring players such as Rohit Sharma and Shardul Thakur, has guided Vartak's development ever since.

Having represented Mumbai at various age-group levels and captained the Under-23 side last season, Vartak is now regarded as one of the state's most promising talents. Despite growing recognition, he remains focused on earning a place in Mumbai's prestigious Ranji Trophy team.

The T20 Mumbai League has also provided an opportunity to learn from senior professionals. Playing under Ajinkya Rahane has taught him valuable lessons in leadership and composure, while regular interactions with India T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav have further enhanced his development.

With talent, guidance and determination on his side, Vartak appears well placed to take the next step in his cricketing journey.

KOHLI TAKES GREATNESS TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH A MASTERFUL IPL SEASON

AHMEDABAD

Virat Kohli has spent nearly two decades redefining batting excellence, but the 2026 Indian Premier League season may have added yet another remarkable chapter to his illustrious career. At 37, when many expected him to slow down, Kohli responded with one of his most dynamic and impactful campaigns, proving that greatness is not merely about longevity but also about evolution.

The signs were evident from the moment Kohli arrived at Royal Challengers Bengaluru's pre-season camp at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. Looking lean, sharp and intensely focused, he showed no signs of rust despite having not played competitive cricket since January. The hunger that has defined his career remained as strong as ever.

Kohli announced his intentions in the season opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad, guiding a challenging chase with an unbeaten 69 off 38 balls. While he initially played a supporting role as Devdutt Padikkal launched an aggressive assault, Kohli seamlessly shifted gears after the youngster's dismissal and took complete control of the contest.

That innings laid the foundation for a stunning season in which Kohli amassed 675 runs, crossing the 500-run mark for the ninth time in 18 IPL campaigns. His tally included a century and five half-centuries, highlighted by a match-winning 75 not out off 42 balls in the final against Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

What made the season special was not just the volume of runs but the transformation in Kohli's approach. Long known for building innings before accelerating, he adapted to the demands of modern T20 cricket without abandoning his strengths. Rather than swinging recklessly, he attacked selectively, targeted specific bowlers and maintained pressure through intelligent strike rotation.

The numbers reflected that evolution. Kohli scored at a strike rate of 165.85, significantly higher than both last season and his overall IPL career rate. His half-century in the final was the fastest of his IPL career, underlining his successful adaptation to the changing format.

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